



EC Structural Funds



# *Guide to the Community Initiatives*

1994-99

Volume 2

European Commission



# Areas eligible under the regional Objectives of the Structural Funds (1994-99)

## Objective 1 (1994-99)

Economic adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind

## Objective 2 (1997-99)

Economic conversion of declining industrial areas

Areas partially eligible under Objective 2

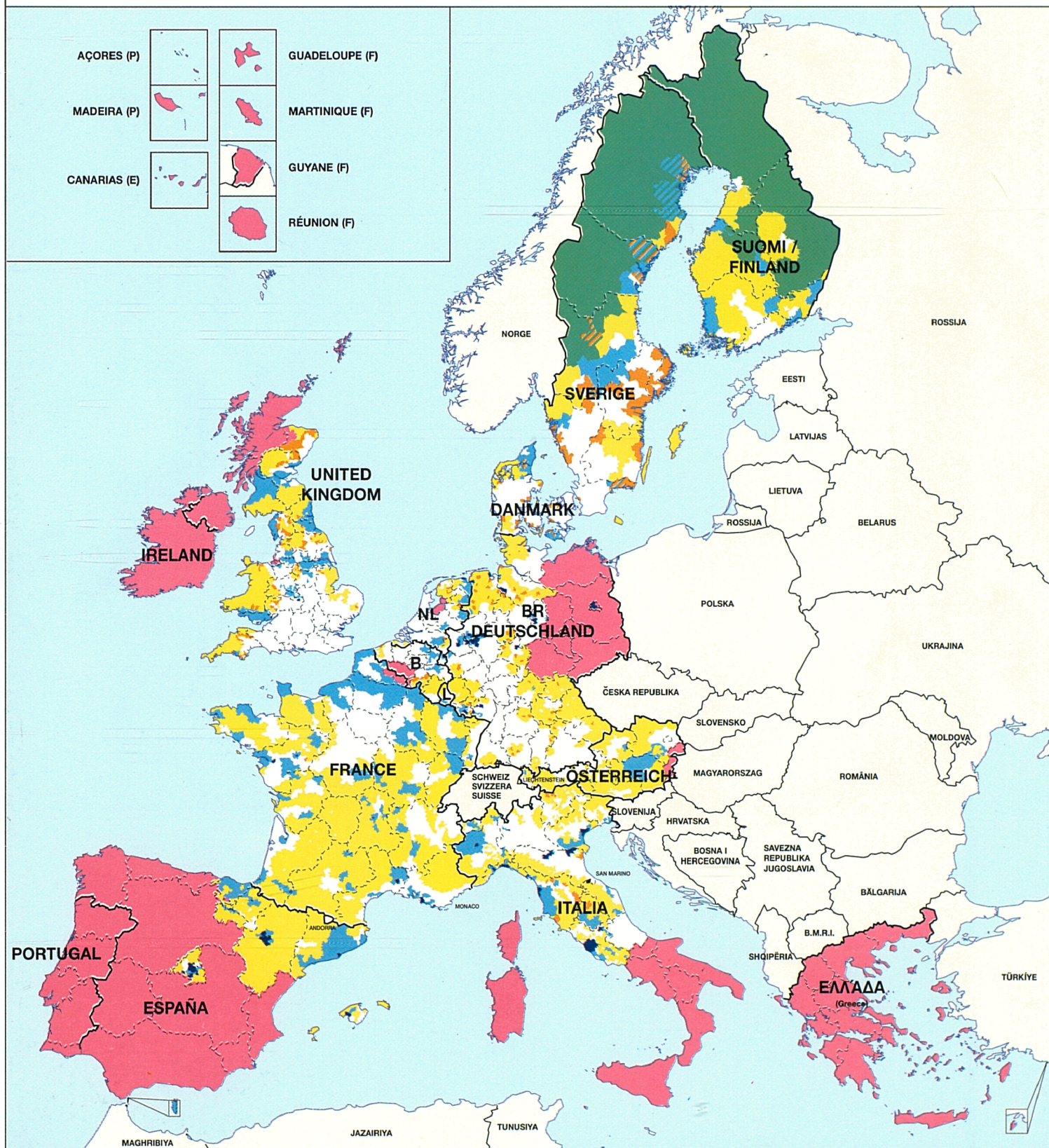
## Objective 5b (1994-99)

Economic diversification of rural areas

Areas partially eligible under Objective 5b

## Objective 6 (1995-99)

Development of sparsely populated regions



The lists of areas eligible under the Structural Funds are published in the Official Journal of the European Communities. This map gives only general guidance.



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**Community  
Initiatives**

1994-99

Volume 2

European Commission



Areas eligible under the regional objectives of the Structural Funds in 1994-95

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Objective 2: Development of the less developed regions (with an average 1994 GDP per capita of less than 75% of the EU average)

Objective 3: Development of the less developed regions (with an average 1994 GDP per capita of less than 75% of the EU average)

# Guide to the Community Initiatives

1994-95

Volume 2

A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu.int>).

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication.

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## PRELIMINARY NOTE

This second edition of the Guide to the Community Initiatives financed by the Structural Funds describes the development of the Initiatives since the adoption on 15 June 1994 of the first guidelines for 1994-99. It therefore supplements the first edition which appeared at that time and which outlined each Initiative so that potential beneficiaries could better understand how they operate.

A further reason why a new edition is required is that, since 1994, the background against which the Community Initiatives are implemented has changed in a number of important respects: the accession of three new Member States, a new Initiative for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland, the allocation of the amount kept in reserve and new guidelines for some Initiatives.

To clarify the new structure of the Initiatives and update the implementation of each of them, this Guide includes:

- an introduction placing the changes made since 1994 in the context of the development of the Initiatives;
- a presentation of the implementation of each Initiative with a summary of the programmes proposed by the Member States and adopted by the Commission;
- the Commission guidelines introduced since 1994.







# INTRODUCTION

## The Community Initiatives

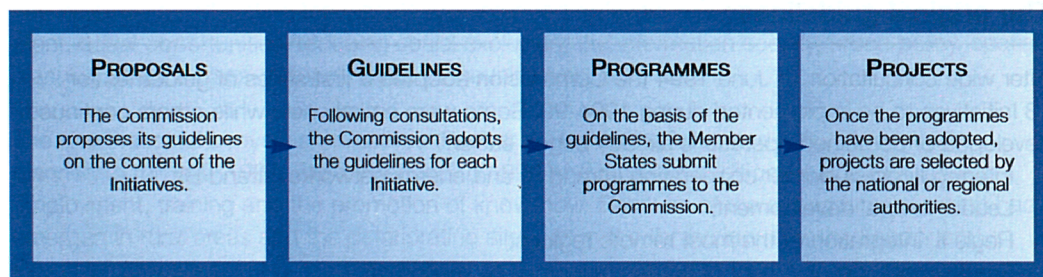
The Community Initiatives, which were launched for the first time in 1989, are special instruments of the Community's structural policies, complementing the Community support frameworks (CSFs) and single programming documents (SPDs), which are proposed by the Member States and negotiated with the Commission.

The Community Initiatives are proposed by the Commission to support operations which help solve problems of particular importance at European level.

The Community Initiatives have three features:

- support for the development of trans-national, cross-border and inter-regional cooperation;
- a "bottom-up" method of implementation;
- a high profile on the ground through expanded partnership.

## Procedure



The Commission begins by proposing draft guidelines defining the priorities on which it wishes to focus in each Community Initiative. This draft, which includes the planned aims, types of measures and financial resources, is circulated to the representatives of the Member States, the European Parliament and the various advisory committees.

Programmes are then drawn up (Community Initiative programmes and Operational Programmes) which set out the priorities and measures selected to respond to economic and social needs identified at national level or for certain specific regions.

Once they have been adopted by the Commission these programmes are implemented by the appropriate national or regional authorities, who therefore constitute the point of contact for groups wishing to submit projects (see list of national coordinators in Annex).



## Programming 1994-99

On the basis of the Green Paper on the future of the Community Initiatives which the Commission issued in June 1993 and the wide-ranging consultation which ensued, seven priority themes were defined:

- cross-border, trans-national and inter-regional cooperation and networks;
- rural development;
- the most remote regions;
- employment and the development of human resources;
- the management of industrial change
- the development of depressed urban areas;
- restructuring of the fishing industry.

In view of favourable developments in Northern Ireland, in 1996 the Commission proposed an Initiative to provide special help for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.

The Regulations permitted 9% of the commitment appropriations for the Structural Funds (ECU 13.45 billion at 1994 prices) to be used to finance Community Initiatives on these themes in 1994-99. Like other structural finance, a large part of this funding will go to the less-developed regions eligible under Objectives 1 and 6.

## The original guidelines

After wide consultation, in June 1994 the Commission adopted a first series of guidelines for 13 Initiatives to be implemented during 1994-99. Some were entirely new while others continued, developed or combined operations already begun earlier:

- Interreg II: cross-border cooperation (strand A) and energy networks (strand B);
- Leader II: rural development;
- Regis II: integration of the most remote regions;
- Employment: development of human resources by means of:
  - access to future-oriented jobs and management posts for women (Now strand);
  - employment opportunities for the handicapped and other disadvantaged groups (Horizon strand)
  - integration into the labour market of poorly qualified young people under 20 (Youthstart strand);
- Adapt: adjustment of workers to industrial change;
- Rechar II: conversion of coal-mining areas;
- Resider II: conversion of steel-making areas;
- Konver: diversification of areas dependent on defence;
- Retex: diversification of areas dependent on the textiles and clothing sector;
- Textiles and clothing in Portugal: modernisation of this sector in Portugal;
- SMEs: making small and medium-sized firms more competitive;
- Urban: a fresh boost for crisis-hit areas of medium-sized or large towns;
- Pesca: diversification of areas dependent on fishing.

In July 1994 the Commission allocated ECU 11.85 billion to these Initiatives. The remaining ECU 1.6 billion (about 12%) was placed in reserve so that the initial allocation (see table in the first edition) could be adjusted in light of their implementation, the financial balance between countries and unforeseen events during the period.



The first adjustments were made early in 1995 when the Textiles and Clothing in Portugal Initiative was converted into an industrial programme by Council Regulation. The new Peace Initiative was introduced to support the process of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland by providing people working in the economic and social fields with the resources to promote a lasting peace.

### **Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden**

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As in the Union as a whole, 9% of the resources provided for the Structural Funds in the three new Member States were allocated to the Community Initiatives. In April 1995 the Commission made an indicative allocation of some ECU 427 million (at 1995 prices) towards the Community Initiatives and decided to begin implementation rapidly. A large part of the funds went to the Interreg II Initiative because of the length of the internal and external frontiers of the new Member States. In addition, a reserve of 12% of the total (ECU 51 million at 1995 prices) was set aside for these three countries.

### **Allocation of the reserve and the new guidelines**

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On 4 October 1995 the Commission proposed how to allocate the reserve for the Community Initiatives, which amounted to ECU 1 655 million for the Twelve and ECU 51 million (at 1995 prices) for the three new Member States.

The proposal for allocating the reserve was intended to favour a number of priorities: employment, equal opportunities, reducing social exclusion, the information society, urban policy, spatial planning and the trans-national nature of the Initiatives.

The four industrial conversion Initiatives (Rechar II, Resider II, Retex and Konver), originally planned to run until 1997, were extended to 1999 and received additional funds to spend on employment, training and the promotion of know-how. Because of the strong interest which had emerged in rural areas and the deteriorating situation in the fishing industry, the Leader and Pesca Initiatives were also expanded.

Some changes to the guidelines for the Urban, Employment, Adapt and Interreg II Initiatives were also proposed:

- Urban: adjustment of the guidelines to give higher priority to equal opportunities, fighting long-term unemployment, and the urban environment, particularly in medium-sized towns;
- Employment: new Integra strand to improve access to the labour market for vulnerable groups, particularly immigrants and refugees;
- Adapt-BIS ("Building the Information Society"): a new priority to ease the transition to the information society and mitigate any resulting social exclusion;
- Interreg II C: a new strand to promote trans-national cooperation on regional planning and controlling floods and drought.

These four Initiatives therefore also received extra funding.



After wide-ranging consultations, particularly with the European Parliament and the Management Committee for the Community Initiatives, on 8 May 1996 the Commission formally adopted the amendments to the guidelines for the Employment, Adapt and Urban Initiatives and the new guidelines for Interreg II C.

### **Allocation of funding for the Community Initiatives 1994-99**

(At 1996 prices and rounded to the nearest million ecus)

	Objectives 1 and 6	Other Objectives	Total
INTERREG II	2631	913	3544
ADAPT	525	1113	1638
EMPLOYMENT	1069	780	1849
LEADER II	1086	682	1768
SMEs	846	241	1087
URBAN	603	288	891
KONVER	282	457	739
RETEX	431	176	607
RESIDER II	173	426	579
RECHAR II	159	303	462
REGIS II	612		612
PESCA	154	146	300
PEACE	302		302
TOTAL	8872	5507	14379

## Implementation of the Community Initiatives

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The Commission's original guidelines were published in the Official Journal of the European Communities on 1 July 1994 (OJ C 180) and may be found in the first edition of this Guide. The new guidelines were published in the Official Journal of the European Communities on 10 July 1996 (OJ C 200) and are found at the end of this edition.

Following publication, the Member States had four to six months in which to propose to the Commission programmes for joint consideration.

Between November 1994 and the allocation of the reserve, some 420 programmes were submitted to the Commission.

Following the 1996 amendments to the Employment and Adapt Initiatives, the Member States sent the Commission their applications for assistance in the form of adjustments to programmes already in progress. In the case of Urban and the new Interreg II C Initiative, they had six months to propose programmes to the Commission. An initial estimate suggests that some 30 new programmes were submitted following allocation of the reserve.

Once the programmes are adopted, each Member State designates the authority responsible for implementation.



## Useful addresses at the European Commission

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- **Directorate-General for Regional Policy**

(DG XVI-A-1 - Fax: +32.2.296 32 73)

General coordination of the Community Initiatives plus the following Initiatives:

- Regis II
- Rechar II
- Resider II
- Konver
- Retex
- SMEs
- Urban
- Peace

(DG XVI-A-2 - Fax: +32.2.296 24 73)

Interreg II Initiative, strands A and B

(DG XVI-A-3 - Fax: +32.2.296 32 71)

Interreg II Initiative, strand C

- **Directorate-General for Agriculture**

(DG VI-F.I-2 - Fax: +32.2.295 10 34)

Leader II Initiative

- **Directorate-General for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs**

(DG V-B-3 - Fax: +32.2.296 97 70)

Employment and Adapt Initiatives

- **Directorate-General for Fisheries**

(DG XIV-D-1 - Fax: +32.2.296 73 60)

Pesca Initiative

### Address for all Directorates-General:

European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
B-1049 Brussels  
Belgium

## Information in electronic form

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- <http://www.inforegio.org>

The regional and cohesion policy of the European Union

- <http://www.europs.be>

The Adapt and Employment Initiatives

- <http://www.rural-europe.aeidl.be>

The Leader II Initiative

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## Interreg II

Interreg II now has three strands: cross-border cooperation (strand A), the completion of energy networks (strand B) and cooperation on spatial planning (strand C).

The guidelines for strands A and B were adopted in 1994 and the Member States submitted 62 operational programmes. Those for strand C were adopted in 1996. Following publication in the Official Journal on 10 July 1996, the Member States had six months in which to propose Operational Programmes to the Commission. This strand is described in detail below.

## Interreg II A & B (1994-99)

**Interreg II A** continues the Interreg Initiative which was intended to prepare border areas for the frontier-free Europe. The aim is to develop cross-border cooperation and help areas on the Union's internal and external frontiers overcome the specific problems arising from their relative isolation within the national economies and the Union as a whole.

The eligible measures are concerned mainly with economic development, employment, the environment, rural development, education, culture and health.

A list of eligible areas was published with the Commission's guidelines in Official Journal OJ C 180 of 1 July 1994.

## Programmes

The Member States submitted 59 Operational Programmes for the implementation of Interreg II A.

Establishment of Interreg II A and the 1995 enlargement gave cooperation across external frontiers, particularly on the Union's eastern flank, a considerably higher profile. The Commission, the Member States and the cen-

tral and east European countries (CEECs) have introduced joint mechanisms and instruments to improve cooperation. In the case of the frontiers with the central and east European countries, a cross-border cooperation programme was adopted in July 1994 within the framework of the Phare programme. The CEECs receive finance from Phare and the Member States finance their contribution from the funds granted under Interreg II. The appropriations allocated are usually used for measures concerning infrastructure (transport, the environment, telecommunications and energy), agriculture, tourism, human resources, education, health, vocational training and spatial planning.

## Planned allocation

ECU 2 617 million (at 1996 prices).

A large part will be allocated to regions eligible under Objectives 1 and 6.

**Interreg II B** is the continuation of the former Regen Initiative and helps fill gaps in the trans-European energy distribution network in the Objective 1 regions.

## Programmes

Three Operational Programmes have been proposed and approved under Interreg II B.

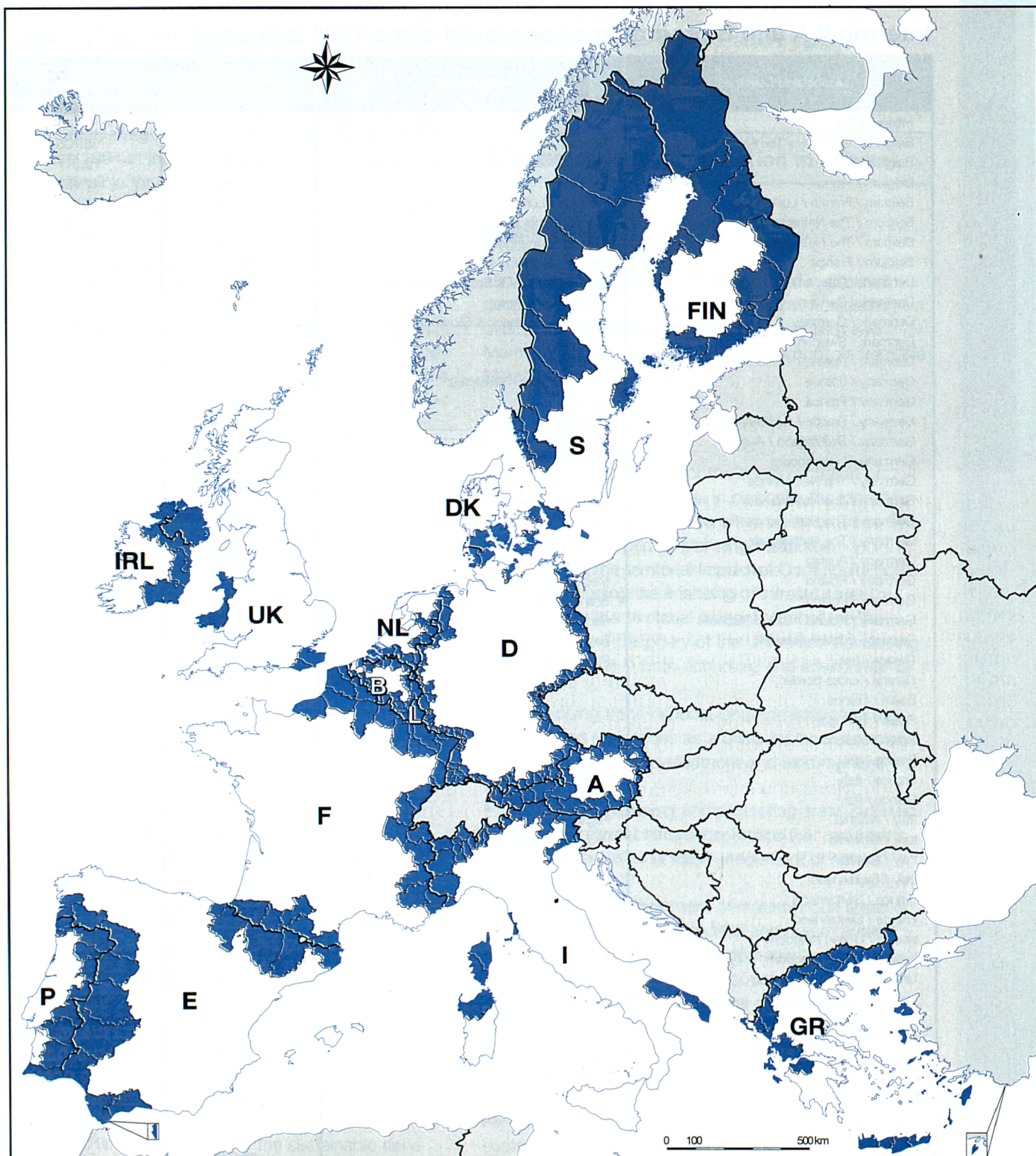
They concern:

- connection between the gas transport systems in Portugal and Spain;
- completion of the interconnection between the electricity distribution networks in Italy and Greece;
- completion of work on the introduction of natural gas into certain regions of Greece.

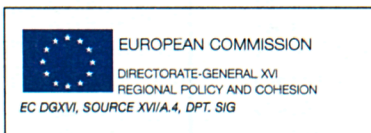
## Planned allocation

ECU 510 million (at 1996 prices).





This map has no legal status.  
The official list of areas eligible under Interreg II A is published in the Official Journal of the European Communities. They are defined at administrative level III of the nomenclature of statistical territorial units (NUTS III).



Guadeloupe (F)



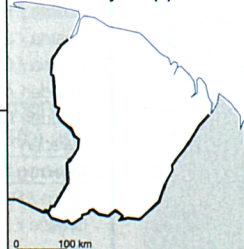
Martinique (F)



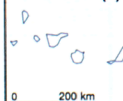
Réunion (F)



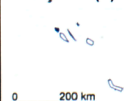
Guyane (F)



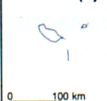
Canarias (E)



Açores (P)



Madeira (P)





## Interreg II A and B programmes approved since 1994 (ECU million)

Associated Countries	Programme	Total amount (price at time of adoption)	Contribution of the Structural Funds (prices at time of original allocation)
<b>Interreg II A</b>			
Belgium / Germany / The Netherlands	Euregio Maas / Rhein	71.910	35.705
Belgium / France	Hainaut / Nord - Pas-de-Calais / Picardie	148.398	70.517
Belgium / France	Ardenne	27.770	12.450
Belgium / France / Luxembourg	Wallonie / Lorraine / Luxembourg	62.233	30.200
Belgium / The Netherlands	Euregio Scheldemond	22.785	11.090
Belgium / The Netherlands	Euregio Middengebiet	66.330	32.410
Belgium / France	West Vlaanderen / Nord - Pas-de-Calais	38.308	17.990
Denmark / Germany	Planungsraum V & Sønderjyllands Amt	22.200	11.100
Denmark / Germany	KERN & Fyns Amt	3.600	1.800
Denmark / Germany	Ostholstein, Lübeck & Storstrøms Amt	10.400	5.200
Denmark / Sweden	Øresund	28.000	13.000
Denmark / Poland / Baltic States	Bornholm	4.610	2.000
Germany / France	Saar / Lorraine / Westpfalz	46.530	23.265
Germany / France	PAMINA	22.110	11.055
Germany / France / Switzerland	Oberrhein	49.899	24.579
Germany / Switzerland / Austria	Bodensee / Hochrhein	13.800	6.900
Germany / Luxembourg	Euregio	30.936	8.035
Germany / The Netherlands	Ems Dollart	62.732	22.469
Germany / The Netherlands	Euregio	53.610	22.010
Germany / The Netherlands	Euregio Rhein / Waal	23.062	11.531
Germany / The Netherlands	Rhein / Maas / Nord	12.760	6.380
Germany / Austria	Bayern / Österreich	56.258	24.600
Germany / Poland	Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	84.107	63.070
Germany / Poland	Brandenburg	120.041	72.020
Germany / Poland / Czech Republic	Sachsen	215.705	146.450
Germany / Czech Republic	Bayern	42.202	16.800
Greece / Italy	Puglia / Ipeiros / Ionioi	301.895	169.231
Greece / cross-border		492.220	309.800
Spain / France		142.640	61.600
Spain / Portugal		755.262	552.000
Spain / Morocco		185.317	100.000
France / Italy	Alpes	160.265	56.200
France / Italy	Corse / Sardegna	74.170	33.678
France / Italy	Corse / Toscane	58.245	18.400
Italy / Albania	Puglia	178.227	79.900
Italy / Slovenia	Friuli-Venezia Giulia & Veneto	31.350	15.580
Italy / Austria		27.426	11.848
Italy / Switzerland		52.734	19.600
France / Switzerland	Franche-Comté	14.192	7.000
France / Switzerland	Rhône-Alpes	11.610	5.300
Ireland / United Kingdom	Northern Ireland	261.704	156.957
Ireland / United Kingdom	Wales	142.760	82.943
United Kingdom / Morocco	Gibraltar	1.709	0.700
United Kingdom / France	Haute-Normandie / Picardie / East Sussex	79.677	33.600
France / United Kingdom	Nord - Pas-de-Calais / Kent	95.268	44.200
Finland / Sweden / Norway / Russia	Barents	23.362	10.255
Finland / Russia	Karelia	31.847	13.616
Finland / Russia	St. Petersburg	40.669	9.442
Finland / Sweden / Norway	Nordkalotten	29.216	11.975
Finland / Sweden	Kvarken & Mittskandia	14.614	6.491
Finland / Sweden	Islands	9.499	3.958
Finland / Estonia		22.676	5.963
Austria / Slovenia		22.559	9.000
Austria / Hongrie		28.156	11.000
Austria / Slovakia		16.026	5.500
Austria / Czech Republic		12.114	4.500
Sweden / Norway	Ett Granslost	12.995	5.500
Sweden / Norway	Inre Scandinavie	10.785	4.500
Sweden / Norway	Nordens Gröna Bälte	13.041	5.500
<b>Interreg II B / REGEN</b>			
Spain / Portugal		548.160	220.000
Greece / Italy		189.430	100.000
Greece / Energy links completed		450.000	180.000



## Interreg II C (1997-99)

- When the budget reserve was allocated in 1996, new guidelines on a third strand were adopted. The aim of Interreg II C is to meet the needs expressed since 1994 at informal meetings of the ministers responsible for spatial planning in the Union, as well as by the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and the Economic and Social Committee, which have encouraged the Commission to adopt a higher profile in spatial planning matters. These needs arise from the rapidly growing awareness of two essential truths: the growing interdependence of the various components of the European territory and the considerable impact on territorial development and planning of the many Community policies.

These new challenges can be met only by:

- developing trans-national cooperation on planning matters - the aim of this new Initiative;
- establishing an integrated planning strategy for the Community territory, or the "European Spatial Development Perspective" (ESDP), a reference document being prepared by the Member States and the Commission. The intention is to link this strategy closely to measures taken under Interreg II C.

### Aim

Interreg II C differs sharply from the type of cooperation promoted by the first strand of Interreg II both as regards the size of the areas concerned and its aim, which is trans-national - rather than cross-border - cooperation involving large areas but concentrating exclusively on spatial planning matters.

The aims of this new strand of the Initiative are to:

- help restore the balance between different areas of the Union through structuring measures that serve Community interests by promoting economic and social cohesion. The goal is an optimal and ordered implementation of planning measures, the development of adequate communication networks between these measures and the correction of disparities within a strategy for the sustainable development of the Union's territory;
- foster trans-national cooperation initiated in this field by Member States and other authorities with responsibilities for spatial planning;
- improve the impact of Community policies on spatial development;
- help Member States and their regions take a preventative and cooperative approach to the problems of water resource management posed by floods and drought.

There are three major areas for action: trans-national cooperation in general, controlling flooding and combating drought.

## 1. Trans-national cooperation in general

### Eligible areas

The Commission will determine a limited number of geographically continuous areas, normally extending over at least three countries (including at least two Member States) on the basis of joint proposals from the Member States concerned.

### Eligible measures (summary)

- Measures to prepare for the implementation of trans-national strategies, in particular the identification of environmentally sensitive areas or areas which require priority planning measures.
- Improving the territorial impact of Community policies, excluding the financing of infrastructure.
- Improving the territorial management of marine areas on the periphery of the Union and developing coastal areas in both economic and environmental terms.
- Developing trans-national land administration systems and regulations as a basis for land use, planning, economic development and land management.
- Planning, developing and protecting areas suffering from permanent natural handicaps (i.e. mountains or arctic areas) and the management of nature areas.
- Sustainable development of mountainous areas of the Union as living, economic and nature areas.
- Improving trans-national cooperation on spatial planning with non-member countries.
- Promoting technology transfer and cooperation networks, research, higher education, technology centres and information systems of particular benefit to remote areas.

All these measures will have to be consistent with the sustainable development of the trans-national region in question.

### Planned allocation

ECU 122 million (at 1996 prices). Community expenditure in areas not eligible under Objectives 1, 2, 5(b) and 6 must account for less than half the Community contribution.



## 2 & 3 Controlling flooding and drought

### Eligible areas

Controlling flooding: the targeted areas comprise the drainage basins of the rivers concerned.

Combating drought: the Commission will establish a list of areas, drawing particularly from the Objective 1 regions, eligible for measures conducted at national level based on documented proposals from the Member States concerned (Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece).

### Eligible measures (summary)

- Identification of sensitive areas or those which should benefit from priority measures to assist spatial planning [2 + 3].
- Studies of the hydrological and ecological balance of major river basins, the causes of floods (in particular in relation to land-use policies and practices), preparation of joint plans and feasibility studies, application of expertise, experience and techniques relating to water conservation [2 + 3].
- Drawing up guidelines and defining priorities and strategies on the use of land and spatial planning for sustainable hydrological management [2 + 3].
- Improving flood prevention in drainage basins (e.g. improvement of dykes, water management measures), particularly where floods are attributable to poor physical planning [2].
- Studies of the hydrological and ecological balance in areas with low rainfall [3].
- Improvement of irrigation techniques, careful choice of crops and cultivation methods, reduction of consumption, of losses from supply systems, management of seasonal peaks, and the re-use of waste water [2 + 3].

### Planned allocation

ECU 149.4 million for flood work (including ECU 12.5 million for the Objective 1 regions) and ECU 145.2 million for drought control (all for Objective 1 regions).

### Programmes

Following agreement among the Member States, 14 operational programmes in the three areas covered by the Initiative should be financed (see table below).

The participating CEECs and the Mediterranean countries have submitted applications for financial assistance under other Community programmes (Phare, Tacis and Medspa). In such cases, the financial programming is to be submitted separately.

The Commission hopes that when these programmes are implemented they will include joint measures for trans-national cooperation, including a joint management structure to take responsibility for financial management and the implementation of the joint projects of the Member States.

### Proposed Interreg II C programmes

Associated Countries	Programme
<b>TRANS-NATIONAL COOPERATION</b>	
Spain, France, Italy, Greece	Mediterranean and Latin Alps
Portugal, Spain, France	South-west Europe
Portugal, Spain, France, United Kingdom, Ireland	Atlantic area
France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Ireland	Metropolitan area of Centre and North-west
United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway	North Sea area
Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Baltic States	Baltic Sea area
Germany, Greece, Italy, Austria, Countries of central and South-east Europe	Centre, Adriatic, Danube, South-east Europe (Adrianube)
<b>CONTROLLING FLOODING</b>	
France, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland	Rhine / Meuse
France, Italy	
Greece, Bulgaria	
<b>COMBATING DROUGHT</b>	
Portugal	
Spain	
Italy	
Greece	



Within the framework of Objective 4, the Adapt Initiative seeks to ease the adjustment of the labour force to industrial change, help firms increase productivity, reduce unemployment by improving qualifications and encourage the emergence of new forms of economic activity.

Measures of four types are planned:

- training, advice and guidance;
- anticipation and promotion of new employment opportunities;
- adaptation of structures and systems;
- information, dissemination and raising public awareness.

A new priority, Adapt-BIS (Building the Information Society), was added to this Initiative in January 1997. This is designed to ease the transition to the information society and mitigate the expected impact on employment. Measures under this priority should encourage the development of know-how and the best use of experience gained by all the key figures in social, economic and political domains in order to properly assess the impact of the information society on employment. Adapt is directed to all bodies and institutions which play a part in industrial change or whose task it is to deal with it.

## Planned allocation

ECU 1 638 million (at 1996 prices) including ECU 162 million for Adapt-BIS.

## Programmes

The Commission has adopted 17 Operational Programmes for Adapt, one per Member State with the exception of Belgium and the United Kingdom, which submitted two each.

These programmes reflect the synthesis of both the Commission's general guidelines and the specific national situations. They set out the principal priorities and objectives and the way in which the intended results will be linked to the corresponding national policy. Their implementation has been divided into two phases: 1995-97 and 1997-99. Following the call for proposals for the first period, some 1 400 projects were chosen in 1996. Because of the introduction of the new BIS priority, the Operational Programmes were revised in 1996. A second call for proposals was issued and the projects selected should begin in 1998.

## Adapt programmes approved since 1994

(in ECU million)

Member States / Regions	Total amount (at 1996 prices)	Contribution of the Structural Funds
French-speaking Belgium	69.884	22.359
Dutch-speaking Belgium	43.936	16.272
Denmark	68.981	31.726
Germany	539.871	256.703
Greece	49.670	33.527
Spain	461.861	293.155
France	680.873	278.442
Ireland	37.253	27.844
Italy	404.978	219.693
Luxembourg (at 1994 prices)	0.800	0.300
The Netherlands	168.940	69.666
Austria (at 1995 prices)	25.752	11.570
Portugal	29.768	21.428
Finland	51.207	23.561
Sweden	28.327	13.074
United Kingdom (Great Britain)	713.668	313.285
United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)	5.455	3.527

## Projects

Implementation of most of the 1 400 projects selected began in 1996. This first series reflects the concerns and interests shared by the various Member States and regions. A large number related to one of the following six subjects:

- development of and support for small firms;
- the nature and impact of changes in work organisation;
- anticipating labour-market trends;
- making local structures supporting the labour market more effective;
- job creation;
- the impact of the information society.

The projects are supported and organised by all the bodies concerned with the labour market: firms or groups of firms; industry organisations, chambers of commerce, craft industries and agriculture, trade unions and other labour organisations, training bodies, universities, local and regional authorities, local development agencies and NGOs.



# EMPLOYMENT (1994-99)

The aim of the Employment Initiative is to use the development of human resources and an integrated approach to support a revival of employment, greater social solidarity and equal opportunities for women on the labour market.

The Initiative comprises a number of strands with inter-dependent aims. The Commission's initial guidelines made provision for three strands:

- NOW, concerned with equal opportunities for women in the sphere of employment, mainly through the development of innovative and effective approaches and instruments for training and the vocational integration of women;
- Horizon, to facilitate the vocational integration of people with disabilities and other disadvantages in order to reduce economic and social exclusion;
- Youthstart, to promote the integration into the labour market of people under 20, particularly young people without training or adequate qualifications.

When the reserve for the Community Initiatives was allocated in 1996, a fourth strand was added to provide further resources to combat the social exclusion of the disadvantaged:

- Integra, to improve access to the labour market for vulnerable groups which are excluded from it or risk being so.

Each strand comprises measures of four main types:

- schemes to improve training, guidance and advisory systems;
- schemes to increase the supply of training and placement services;
- schemes to help create jobs and economic activity;
- schemes concerned with information, dissemination and public awareness about these problems and the activities being undertaken.

Employment is aimed at all bodies or institutions which have a role to play in developing human resources or whose task it is to provide solutions.

## Planned allocation

ECU 1 848 million (at 1996 prices): ECU 481 million for NOW, ECU 531 million for Horizon, ECU 445 million for Youthstart and ECU 391 million for Integra.

The Initiative extends to the whole territory of the Union but the Objective 1 regions have priority.

## Programmes

The Commission has adopted 17 Operational Programmes for Employment, one per Member State apart from Belgium and the United Kingdom, which submitted two each.

These programmes reflect the synthesis of both the Commission's general guidelines and the specific national situations. They set out the principal priorities and objectives and the way in which the intended results will be linked to the corresponding national policy. Their implementation has been divided into two phases: 1995-97 and 1997-99.

Following the call for proposals for the first period, some 2 400 projects were chosen by the Member States (see below).

The adoption of the new Integra strand in 1996 required adjustments to the Operational Programmes. They were revised in 1996 and a second call for proposals was issued in 1997. The projects selected for the four strands should begin in 1998.

## Employment programmes approved since 1994 (in ECU million)

Member States / Regions	Total amount (at 1996 prices)	Contribution of the Structural Funds (ECU million)
French-speaking Belgium	63.062	28.978
Dutch-speaking Belgium	36.739	16.816
Denmark	28.125	14.098
Germany	387.147	200.993
Greece	104.720	70.686
Spain	670.969	450.133
France	382.131	191.199
Ireland	118.429	88.614
Italy	640.301	401.387
Luxembourg (at 1994 prices)	0.600	0.300
The Netherlands	136.026	62.617
Austria (at 1995 prices)	46.369	23.010
Portugal	61.779	45.468
Finland	73.672	33.158
Sweden	50.469	24.014
United Kingdom (Great Britain)	431.100	180.983
United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)	19.461	12.789



## Projects

Some 2 400 projects (NOW: 750, Horizon: 1 150, Youthstart: 500) were selected as a result of the first call for proposals. They have received the public finance required and are now being implemented. The second call for proposals, in 1997, resulted in the selection of 3 420 projects (NOW: 930, Horizon: 870, Youthstart: 720, Integra: 900). These projects will not begin until 1998.

### NOW

The main topics of the 750 projects selected for the first phase are the establishment of firms by women and self-employment for women. They will have considerable impact in rural areas. Other major subjects include:

- diversification of choice of employment by raising the awareness of teachers and guidance services or through information campaigns aimed at women and girls;
- equal opportunities at work and access to management posts;
- experimenting with new forms of work organisation;
- training women in new technologies, particularly in the tourism, health, personal care services and environment sectors.

### Horizon

Projects to foster the vocational integration of people with disabilities ("Horizon-disabled" section) using integrated approaches: structured pathways towards employment and local-area approaches involving a wide range of local partners, both public, private and voluntary. Organisations of disabled people usually take part in the projects from planning to implementation and publication of the results.

Other strategic themes include:

- training and support for job creation in sectors with a high degree of potential, such as the environment;

- support for non-profit-making firms evolving towards the open market and the creation of commercially viable firms.

Projects for the vocational integration of the disadvantaged ("Horizon-disabled" section, now called Integra) have a wide variety of target publics (the marginalised, isolated and homeless, drug addicts, immigrants, refugees, etc.) which the Member States have not normally defined strictly in their programmes.

The projects normally concern:

- the development of integrated approaches or structured access to employment at local level;
- the provision of training and aid for job-creation in "new sources of employment", particularly in the environment, leisure, tourism and social services sectors;
- the participation of a variety of bodies in a process of local partnership to upgrade structures to help non-profit firms in the social field or provide start-up aid for micro-firms;
- encouragement for new forms of solidarity by training those who have been excluded to act as advisers able to encourage the disadvantaged to cooperate in setting up new firms.

### Youthstart

The Member States have adopted two training approaches to assist the integration into the labour market of people under 20 with few or no qualifications:

- innovation in order to improve vocational training in general so that it is more accessible to young people and better adapted to the labour market, in particular by promoting traineeships and other forms of work-experience training;
- individually designed training to raise individual motivation and encourage personal initiative.

The aim of many projects is to establish integrated pathways to integration and/or local cooperation. They also include qualifications, training instruments and guidance.



# LEADER II (1994-99)

The Leader II Initiative supports rural development projects designed and managed by local partners which pay particular attention to the innovative, demonstration and transferable aspects of the measures.

The concept of partnership is very important. The Initiative is intended to encourage the involvement of local inhabitants, associations and collective bodies which, together, will define and implement coherent development strategies to meet the specific needs of the rural areas where they operate. The constructive mobilisation of the various local partners gives a fresh boost to the economies of the rural areas by providing new opportunities for economic activity and jobs.

The public and private partners which draw up joint development strategies and which wish to receive financial assistance under Leader II are required to form local action groups. Other collective bodies (cooperatives, chambers of agriculture, collective bodies etc.) may also submit eligible projects provided they are consistent with the development pattern of the area.

Leader II applies mainly in the rural areas of the regions eligible under Objectives 1, 5(b) and 6.

## Allocation

ECU 1 768 million (at 1996 prices), the bulk of which goes to the regions eligible under Objectives 1 and 6.

## Programmes

The 15 Member States have submitted 102 proposals for Operational Programmes (excluding technical assistance) to implement Leader II.

Most of the programmes relate to the three main measures set out in the Commission's guidelines:

- rural innovation: this measure provides finance for innovative development strategies drawn up by local people for their areas; innovation appears in the proposed programmes in various guises: in the methodology (more closely targeted and greater participation by local people) and the nature of the projects proposed (new services, exploitation of the cultural identity of the areas, etc.);
- skill acquisition: in rural areas where local development is a novelty this measure provides finance for measures to inform and motivate local people, for territorial analyses to identify the strengths and weaknesses of an area and for the preparation of an appropriate development strategy;
- trans-national cooperation: the aim is for local action groups or others from more than one Member State to carry out joint projects.

The vast bulk of rural innovation programmes are implemented by local action groups. In October 1997 there were 775 such groups but only 46 other types of collective actors. This meant that 821 local beneficiaries were officially approved; approval of the remainder is expected before the end of 1997.



## Leader II programmes approved since 1994 (ECU million)

Member States / Regions	Total amount	Contribution of the Structural Funds*
B Hainaut	9.26	4.09
Wallonie	7.89	3.32
DK Denmark	26.72	8.16
D Berlin (Ost)	0.40	0.24
Brandenburg	33.67	18.83
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	29.31	15.56
Sachsen	35.45	18.01
Sachsen-Anhalt	26.34	15.56
Thüringen	29.69	13.92
Baden-Württemberg	14.26	5.68
Bayern	113.45	43.05
Hessen	21.29	6.20
Niedersachsen	40.09	18.84
Nordrhein-Westfalen	8.76	3.55
Rheinland-Pfalz	25.49	8.55
Saarland	4.20	1.82
Schleswig-Holstein	16.61	6.64
GR Greece	263.60	148.00
E Andalucía	249.29	68.81
Asturias	35.53	13.00
Canarias	30.83	12.33
Cantabria	20.10	6.41
Castilla-la Mancha	142.63	41.00
Castilla y León	122.87	53.50
Extremadura	56.14	24.00
Galicia	119.46	43.80
Murcia	24.26	9.52
Valencia	77.62	23.63
Aragón	137.40	27.48
Islas Baleares	11.27	3.13
Cataluña	68.10	13.62
La Rioja	18.40	3.68
Madrid	14.15	3.60
Navarra	21.47	4.81
País Vasco	12.63	2.47
F Corse	7.16	3.05
Hainaut français	4.48	2.04
Alsace	9.89	4.41
Aquitaine	46.30	20.87
Auvergne	36.57	15.47
Basse-Normandie	23.08	12.27
Bourgogne	24.79	10.32
Bretagne	34.49	17.07
Centre	17.74	7.74
Champagne-Ardenne	8.48	2.75
Franche-Comté	14.01	7.01
Haute-Normandie	2.84	1.32
Languedoc-Roussillon	40.86	17.45
Limousin	50.13	18.17
Lorraine	19.27	8.96
Midi-Pyrénées	65.63	25.46
Pays de la Loire	22.64	11.18
Poitou-Charentes	62.45	11.92
Provence-Alpes-Côtes d'Azur	29.77	14.88
Rhône-Alpes	33.50	15.85

Member States / Regions	Total amount	Contribution of the Structural Funds*
IRL Ireland	165.58	67.92
I Abruzzo	31.93	15.97
Basilicata	39.10	19.55
Calabria	47.71	23.15
Campania	51.33	25.82
Molise	18.07	9.85
Puglia	53.20	26.60
Sardegna	73.82	32.37
Sicilia	65.16	32.58
Bolzano	23.41	5.85
Emilia-Romagna	25.14	7.74
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	17.72	5.97
Lazio	73.88	19.90
Liguria	19.13	4.81
Lombardia	17.32	5.51
Marche	44.63	10.28
Piemonte	48.82	11.26
Toscana	65.10	18.06
Trento	10.51	2.72
Umbria	37.98	10.25
Valle d'Aosta	2.24	0.57
Veneto	70.48	19.90
L Luxembourg	4.85	1.01
NL Flevoland	4.43	2.11
Noordwest-Friesland	13.47	2.66
NW-Groningen/NO-Friesland	14.43	2.64
Zuidwest-Drenthe	2.84	1.05
A Burgenland	6.70	2.57
Kärnten	8.41	2.90
Niederösterreich	13.96	5.58
Oberösterreich	19.01	4.94
Salzburg	2.82	0.80
Steiermark	14.94	4.27
Tirol	5.35	1.72
Vorarlberg	1.00	0.36
P Portugal	174.55	130.91
FIN Suomen tavoite 5b-alueet	44.34	16.15
Suomen tavoite 6-alueet	32.13	11.94
S Mål 5b-områdena	71.76	12.09
Mål 6-områdena	14.11	4.02
UK Highlands & Islands	27.91	11.96
Northern Ireland	31.47	11.35
England	57.78	25.85
Scottish 5b areas	24.38	8.41
Wales	18.83	8.62

\* For some programmes, mainly France and Italy under Objective 5(b), the latest decision already incorporates the allocation of the reserve.



# SME (1994-99)

The SME Initiative is intended to help small and medium-sized firms adjust to the single market and become more competitive internationally.

The measures relate to:

- improving systems of production and organisation in firms;
- taking better account of the environment and encouraging the rational use of energy;
- developing cooperation and networking among small firms;
- improving cooperation among research centres, centres for the transfer of technology, universities and small firms for R&D purposes;
- improving the expertise of small firms in financial engineering.

For the purposes of this Initiative, small firms are those:

- which employ fewer than 250 people and whose annual turnover does not exceed ECU 20 million, or whose net worth does not exceed ECU 10 million;
- where no more than 25% of capital is owned by one or more firms which are not small firms, with the exception of public investment companies, venture capital companies and institutional investors.

Producer cooperatives may benefit from the SME Initiative. Firms employing between 250 and 500 people, particularly in areas eligible under Objective 1, may also benefit from some of the measures under this Initiative.

## Planned allocation

ECU 1 087 million (at 1996 prices) of which almost 80% will go to regions eligible under Objectives 1 and 6.

## Programmes

All 15 Member States have submitted programmes for implementation of the SME Initiative. Most submitted a single programme but Germany, Belgium, the United Kingdom and France submitted regional programmes making a total of thirty-six.

The adjustments made by the Member States in drawing up the programmes meant that specific measures reflecting the Commission's guidelines could be proposed. Many programmes include measures to promote innovation through quality policies, the development of production systems and technological innovation and the improvement of know-how. Particular attention has also been paid to measures to improve access to capital markets. A further priority is coopera-

tion between firms through networks (dissemination of good practice), support for collective measures and the establishment of partnerships. Adjustments have also been negotiated to take account of the growing internationalisation of small firms; these have usually taken the form of a policy of "incubator units".

## SME programmes approved since 1994 (ECU million)

Member States / Regions	Total amount (prices at time of adoption)	Contribution of the Structural Funds (prices at time of original allocation)
B Wallonie	14.223	9.410
Vlaanderen	8.640	2.490
DK Denmark	5.102	2.500
D Niedersachsen	9.480	4.740
Schleswig-Holstein	3.640	1.820
Bayern	19.682	6.970
Saarland	3.080	1.540
Berlin	36.197	14.609
Reinland-Pfalz	4.650	2.320
Hessen	3.397	1.161
Baden-Württemberg	1.826	0.850
Bremen	8.940	0.970
Nordrhein-Westfalen	31.640	7.920
Sachsen	99.671	42.800
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	35.383	18.300
Thüringen	57.450	29.000
Sachsen-Anhalt	63.889	35.100
Brandenburg	20.875	14.900
GR Greece	156.863	82.200
E Spain	1383.138	247.700
F Corse	15.752	3.000
Nord	25.140	6.200
Obj. 2 & 5b	98.327	48.500
IRL Ireland	53.198	28.400
I Italy	645.506	187.830
L Luxembourg	1.300	0.340
NL The Netherlands	26.680	10.200
A Austria	34.797	8.740
P Portugal	234.963	122.300
FIN Finland	27.934	10.800
S Sweden	48.780	16.760
UK Northern Ireland	11.102	6.200
Highlands & Islands	6.960	3.000
Wales	5.217	2.300
Lowland Scotland	19.714	8.400
Merseyside	9.840	4.920
England Obj. 2	74.099	32.360
England Obj. 5b	24.639	11.306



The Commission decided to launch the Urban Initiative to extend and improve coordination of the various urban policies being pursued for a number of years within the frameworks of national initiative programmes or innovative measures (pilot projects and cooperation networks under Article 10 of the ERDF Regulation).

This Initiative is designed to encourage the search for solutions to all the problems encountered in urban areas through a consistent series of measures concerning:

- the launch of new economic activities;
- the promotion of local employment;
- the renewal of social, health and personal security facilities;
- improvements to environmental infrastructure.

Following the amendments made in 1996 to the original guidelines, Urban also supports measures to promote:

- equal opportunities;
- combating long-term unemployment;
- the urban environment.

As a result of the supplementary allocation from the reserve, the Member States were invited to propose new programmes for 1997-99 in light of these amendments.

Eligible areas must have a high rate of unemployment, a run-down urban fabric, poor housing and a shortage of social facilities. While the original guidelines targeted areas of agglomerations with over 100 000 inhabitants, the amendments shift the emphasis to medium-sized towns.

## Planned allocation

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ECU 891 million (at 1996 prices), of which two-thirds will go to regions eligible under Objectives 1 and 6.

## Programmes

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Following publication of the Commission's guidelines in the Official Journal of the European Communities, the Member States submitted 43 programmes under the initial allocation for the Urban Initiative; all were approved. Some programmes submitted at national level covered several towns in the Member State.

Following the supplementary allocation from the reserve, the Commission approved new proposals for programmes reflecting the new guidelines - these are marked by an asterisk in the table.

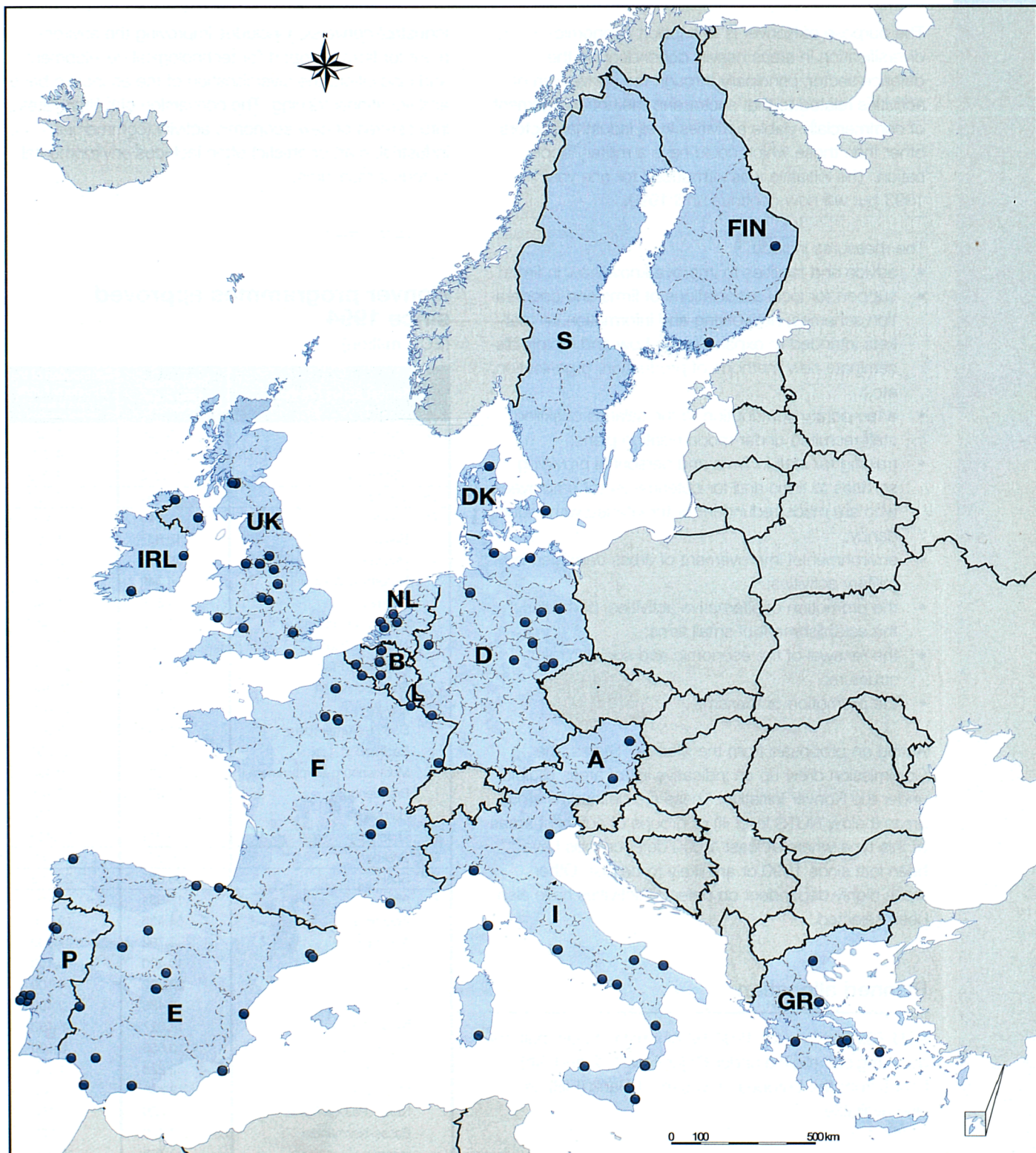


**Towns concerned by the Urban programmes approved since 1994**  
(ECU million)

Member States / Towns	Total amount of CIP (prices at time of adoption)	Contribution of the Structural Funds (prices at time of original allocation)
B Antwerpen	15.234	2.582
Bruxelles	11.733	2.040
Charleroi	11.326	5.663
DK Aalborg	3.041	1.500
D Berlin	30.897	16.100
Brandenburg	9.611	7.200
Bremen	16.310	8.000
Chemnitz	141.312	9.200
Duisburg	18.651	8.100
Erfurt	17.180	12.900
Halle	5.152	2.420
Kiel*	14.987	7.110
Magdeburg	19.943	12.880
Rostock	16.016	12.000
Saarbrücken	22.574	8.000
Zwickau*	19.684	9.779
GR Ermoupolis	6.253	3.900
Athina (Keratsini)	18.123	11.000
Patras	12.731	9.548
Atrina (Peristeri)	12.417	8.613
Thessaloniki	15.445	10.825
Volos	12.051	8.701
E Badajoz	14.286	10.000
Badalona	6.582	3.291
Baracaldo	20.000	10.000
Cadiz	14.288	10.000
Cartagena	14.305	10.000
Huelva	14.353	10.000
La Coruña	14.286	10.000
Langreo	14.285	10.000
Madrid	20.000	10.000
Málaga	14.285	10.000
Sabadell	13.418	6.709
Salamanca	14.284	10.000
Sevilla	14.286	10.000
Toledo	14.284	10.000
Valencia	14.285	10.000
Valladolid	14.288	10.000
Vigo	14.285	10.000
F Amiens	20.478	6.904
Aulnay-sous-Bois	22.760	8.760
Bastia*	6.514	3.500
Châlon-sur-Saône*	14.008	5.331
Clichy-Montfermeil*	18.504	5.320
Lyon Est	26.616	6.904
Mantes-la-Jolie*	16.371	5.299
Marseille	17.583	6.904
Mulhouse	20.987	6.904
Les Mureaux	17.036	6.904
Roubaix-Tourcoing	17.613	6.904
Saint-Etienne*	15.112	5.320
Valenciennes	9.731	4.787

Member States / Towns	Total amount of CIP (prices at time of adoption)	Contribution of the Structural Funds (prices at time of original allocation)
IRL Cork	6.651	4.988
Dublin	13.302	9.976
I Bari	20.988	9.188
Cagliari	19.323	9.188
Catania	24.768	9.188
Cosenza	18.555	9.188
Foggia	18.410	7.359
Genova	22.538	7.158
Napoli	22.045	10.186
Palermo	21.420	10.038
Reggio Calabria	21.136	9.188
Roma	21.768	7.158
Salerno	18.188	9.188
Siracusa	22.510	9.188
Venezia	25.547	7.158
L Dudelange - Differdange	1.033	0.507
NL Amsterdam	19.683	4.650
Den Haag	68.230	4.650
Rotterdam*	23.550	6.500
Utrecht*	25.971	6.500
A Wien	31.926	9.770
Graz	23.450	3.590
P Lisboa (Amadora)	7.082	4.574
Lisboa	24.387	18.290
Lisboa (Loures)	3.389	2.541
Lisboa (Oeiras)	3.910	2.541
Porto	18.261	12.793
Porto (Gondomar)	3.636	2.545
FIN Helsinki (Vantaa)*	10.201	3.933
Joensuu	5.280	3.890
S Malmö*	11.944	3.370
UK Birmingham	20.637	7.875
Brighton*	9.371	4.506
Bristol*	11.478	4.506
Coventry Hillfields*	9.478	4.506
Leeds*	9.567	4.506
Merseyside, North Huyton,		
Netherton, Liverpool	35.818	16.950
Manchester	17.743	7.875
Northern Ireland	24.516	16.950
Nottingham	14.890	6.650
Sheffield	14.827	6.650
Scotland	32.736	13.375
Swansea	11.732	5.500
London-Hackney	17.294	7.875
London-Park Royal	16.326	7.500





The map of eligible towns has no legal status.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL XVI  
REGIONAL POLICY AND COHESION  
EC DGXVI, SOURCE XVI/A.4, DPT. SIG

Guadeloupe (F)



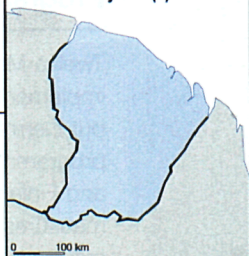
Martinique (F)



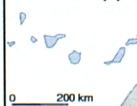
Réunion (F)



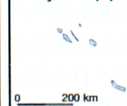
Guyane (F)



Canarias (E)



Açores (P)



Madeira (P)





# KONVER (1993-99)

The purpose of Konver is to support economic diversification in areas heavily dependent on the defence sector, principally through the conversion of activities related to that sector and the encouragement of commercially viable activities in all industrial sectors other than those which could have a military application. The Initiative was introduced for one year in 1993 but will now continue until 1999.

The measures include:

- advice and facilities to improve know-how in firms;
- support for local associations of firms and cooperation schemes, networking and information on markets intended to expand know-how and rapidly disseminate new methods of production, organisation, etc.;
- a temporary contribution to the salaries of skilled staff recruited under modernisation plans;
- training for staff in firms and personnel providing services to firms and for defence-sector employees who are made redundant or threatened with redundancy;
- environmental improvement of areas damaged by military activities;
- the promotion of alternative activities, particularly the establishment of small firms;
- the renewal of the economic and social infrastructure;
- the promotion of tourism.

Acting on proposals from the Member States, the Commission drew up an indicative list of areas eligible under the Konver Initiative. These are defined as small areas (below NUTS level III) or groups of adjacent areas of this type where at least 1 000 defence jobs have been lost since 1990 or are likely to be lost. Other areas highly dependent on defence activities have also been selected.

## Planned allocation

ECU 739.3 million for 1994-99 of which at least half will go to regions eligible under Objectives 1, 2 and 5(b). Loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB) are also available.

## Programmes

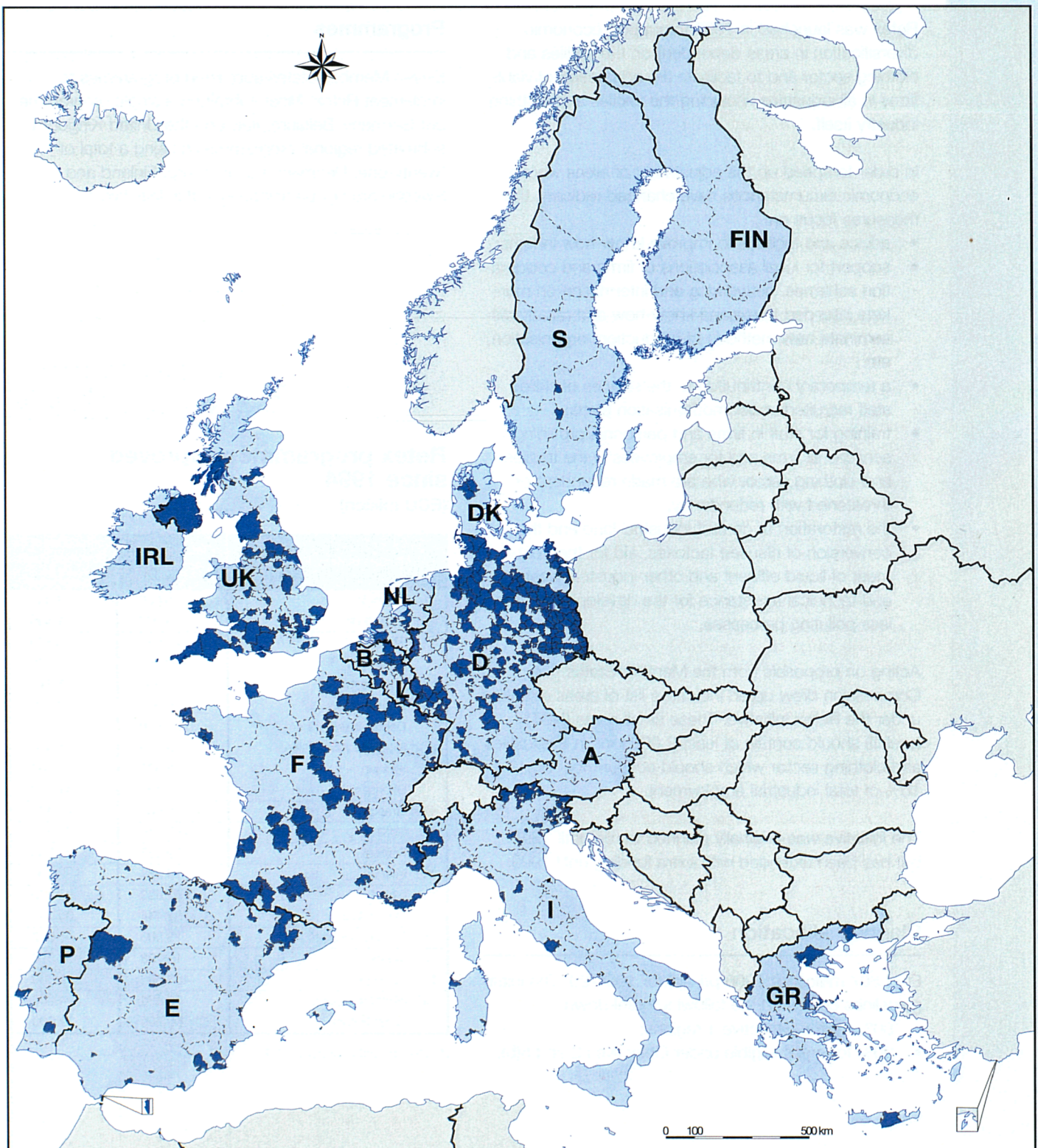
Twelve Member States submitted programmes to implement Konver. Most submitted a single programme but Germany, France and Belgium submitted regional programmes making a total of forty-five. Ireland, Austria and Finland are not participating in this Initiative. The measures proposed in the programmes relate to industrial conversion or the restoration of military sites.

Industrial conversion includes improving the environment for firms, support for technological development and innovation, the diversification of the economic base and vocational training. The conversion of military sites into centres of new economic activity (commercial, industrial, craft or artistic) often includes environmental or tourist measures.

## Konver programmes approved since 1994 (ECU million)

Member States / Regions	Total amount (prices at time of adoption)	Contribution of the Structural Funds (prices at time of original allocation)
B Bruxelles-Capitale	5.750	1.727
Wallonie	12.878	4.920
Vlaanderen	11.800	4.800
DK Denmark	5.331	2.350
D Bremen	21.540	4.470
Berlin	18.667	11.764
Hessen	49.750	12.420
Nordrhein-Westfalen	34.349	14.900
Saarland	4.578	1.240
Schleswig-Holstein	29.788	8.940
Niedersachsen	36.335	12.919
Rheinland-Pfalz	27.820	13.910
Sachsen-Anhalt	17.038	11.164
Bayern	28.953	12.670
Baden-Württemberg	51.699	12.670
Sachsen	40.854	25.091
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	33.025	19.450
Brandenburg	53.875	37.104
Hamburg	2.480	1.240
Thüringen	38.011	19.448
GR Greece	20.261	12.750
E Spain	56.622	23.758
F Alsace	19.984	4.200
Aquitaine	64.435	13.000
Auvergne	3.782	1.500
Bretagne	10.400	5.100
Centre	22.022	4.100
Champagne	5.488	2.400
Île de France	18.827	5.450
Languedoc	10.056	3.100
Lorraine	2.228	1.100
Midi-Pyrénées	12.449	4.000
Nord - Pas-de-Calais	2.229	1.100
Basse-Normandie	7.420	2.300
Picardie	20.702	9.300
Provence-Alpes-Côtes d'Azur	11.744	5.800
Rhône-Alpes	7.227	2.200
Limousin	21.954	4.000
Poitou-Charentes	3.116	1.500
I Italy	250.371	45.300
L Luxembourg	1.302	0.356
NL The Netherlands	32.043	11.900
P Portugal	10.661	7.800
S Karlskoga & Karlsborg	11.439	3.260
UK United Kingdom	230.610	100.700

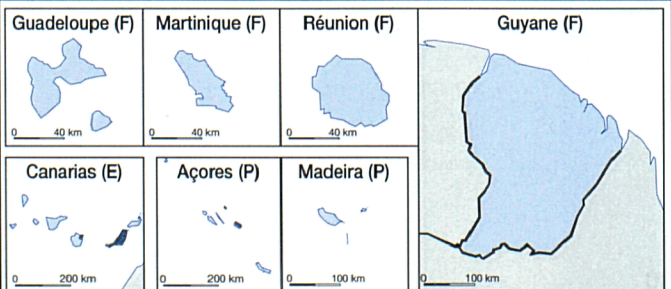




The map of eligible areas has no legal status.  
The list of areas eligible under the Konver Initiative was published in the Official Journal of the European Communities (OJ C 402 of 31 December 1994 and OJ C 330 of 8 December 1995).



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EC DG XVI, SOURCE XVII/A.4, DPT. SIG





# RETEX (1993-99)

Retex was launched in 1992 to support economic diversification in areas dependent on the textiles and clothing sector and to facilitate the adaptation of viable firms in all industries, including the textiles and clothing industry itself.

In order to speed up the adjustment of areas whose economic circumstances have changed radically, the measures focus on:

- advice and facilities to improve know-how in firms;
- support for local associations of firms and cooperation schemes, networking and information on markets intended to expand know-how and rapidly disseminate new methods of production, organisation, etc.;
- a temporary contribution to the salaries of skilled staff recruited under modernisation plans;
- training for staff in firms and personnel providing services to firms and for employees in the textiles and clothing sector who are made redundant or threatened with redundancy;
- the restoration of derelict industrial land and the conversion of disused factories, aid for the treatment of liquid effluent and other industrial waste and technical assistance for the development of less polluting processes.

Acting on proposals from the Member States, the Commission drew up an indicative list of areas eligible under the Retex Initiative. These small areas (NUTS level III) should contain at least 2 000 jobs in the textiles and clothing sector which should account for over 10% of total industrial employment.

The Initiative was originally planned to run until 1997 but has been extended with extra funding until 1999.

## Planned allocation

ECU 607 million (at 1996 prices) for 1994-99. The initial guidelines contained the following breakdown:

- 80% for the Objective 1 regions;
- 20% for areas eligible under Objectives 2 and 5(b).

## Programmes

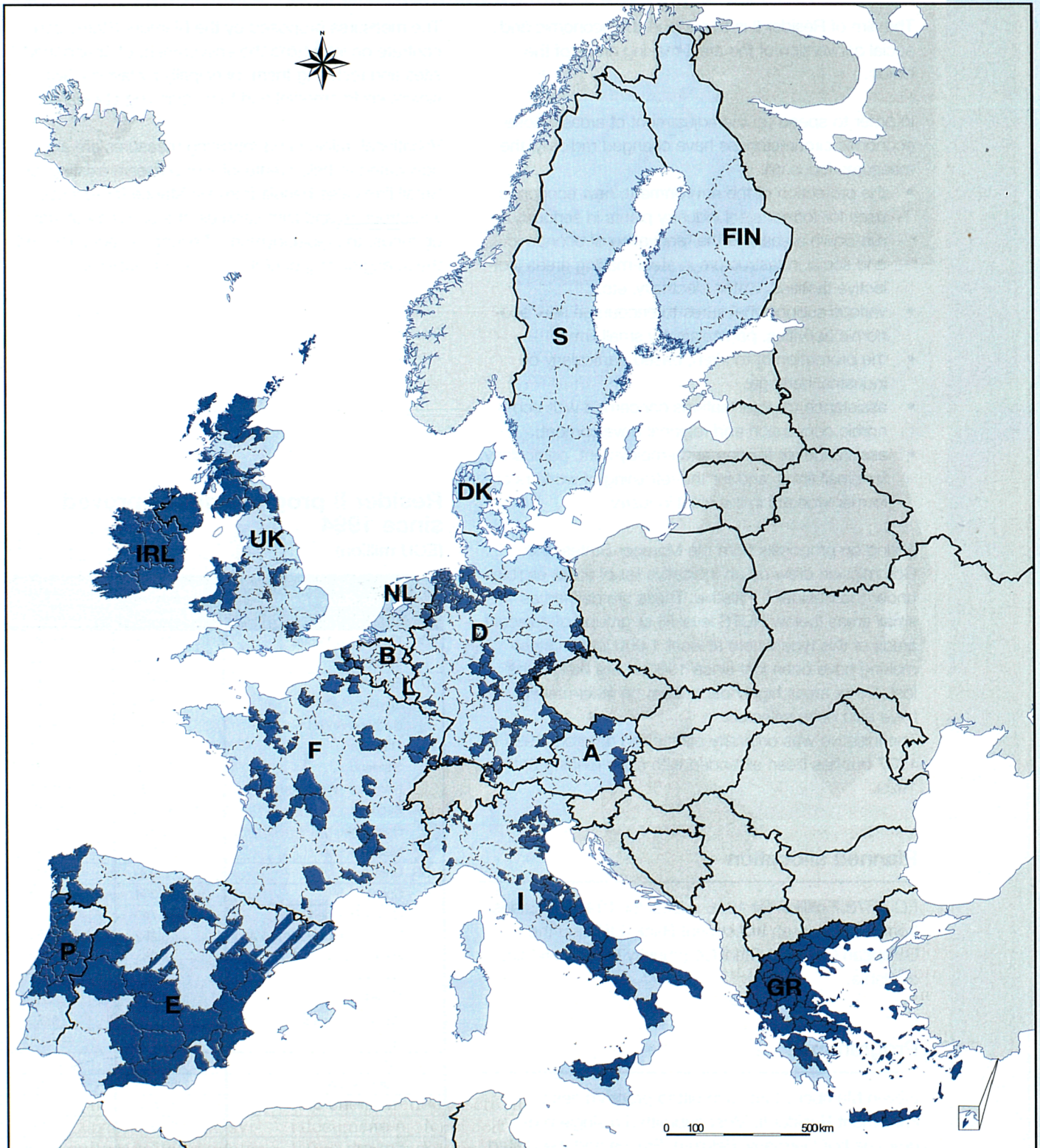
Eleven Member States submitted programmes to implement Retex. Most submitted a single programme but Germany, Belgium, Italy and the United Kingdom submitted regional programmes making a total of twenty-one. Denmark, Luxembourg, Finland and Sweden are not participating in this Initiative.

## Retex programmes approved since 1994 (ECU million)

Member States / Regions	Total amount (prices at time of adoption) <sup>(1)</sup>	Contribution of the Structural Funds (prices at time of original allocation) <sup>(1)</sup>
B Wallonie	6.000	3.000
Vlaanderen	3.039	1.400
D Thüringen	25.010	9.560
Bayern	110.253	7.555
Niedersachsen	4.932	1.810
Brandenburg	5.991	3.290
Baden-Württemberg	22.610	1.811
Nordrhein-Westfalen	3.326	1.420
Hessen	5.360	1.104
Sachsen	90.137	41.850
GR Greece	125.003	74.460
E Spain	297.610	74.500
F France	79.267	24.590
IRL Ireland	19.234	9.300
I Obj. 1	62.692	32.170
Obj. 2 & 5b	152.444	35.030
NL The Netherlands	3.500	1.012
A Austria	16.238	2.570
P Portugal	433.555	162.000
UK Northern Ireland	8.390	4.200
Great Britain	69.750	32.000

(1) The amounts concern 1994-97.





The map of eligible areas has no legal status.



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Guadeloupe (F)



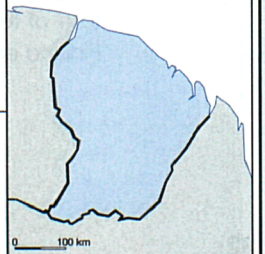
Martinique (F)



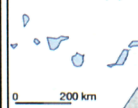
Réunion (F)



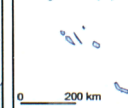
Guyane (F)



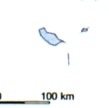
Canarias (E)



Açores (P)



Madeira (P)





## RESIDER II (1994-99)

The aim of Resider II is to support the economic and social conversion of the steel-making areas of the Union.

In order to speed up the adjustment of areas whose economic circumstances have changed radically, the measures focus on:

- the protection of the environment, new economic uses for former steel industry plants in seriously run-down areas and the renovation of economic and social infrastructure in steel-making areas (collective facilities, water, electricity, etc.);
- various support measures to encourage new economic activities, particularly by small firms;
- the promotion of tourism, based particularly on industrial heritage;
- assistance to organisations concerned with economic conversion and regional development;
- assistance for training and employment, particularly for small firms, and for the retraining of workers or former workers in the steel industry.

Acting on proposals from the Member States, the Commission drew up an indicative list of areas eligible under the Resider II Initiative. These are defined as small areas (below NUTS level III) or groups of adjacent areas of this type where at least 1 000 jobs in steel-making have been lost since 1990 or are likely to be lost. Other areas highly dependent on steel-making have also been selected.

The Initiative was originally planned to run from 1994 to 1997 but has been extended with extra funding until 1999.

### Planned allocation

ECU 578.7 million (at 1996 prices) for 1994-99. Loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) are also available.

### Programmes

Eleven Member States submitted programmes to implement Resider II. Most submitted a single programme but Germany, Belgium, France and the United Kingdom submitted regional programmes making a total of twenty-eight. Denmark, Ireland, Sweden and Finland are not participating in this Initiative.

The measures proposed by the Member States concentrate on improving the environment of abandoned sites and restoring them, principally by laying down severe environmental and town planning standards.

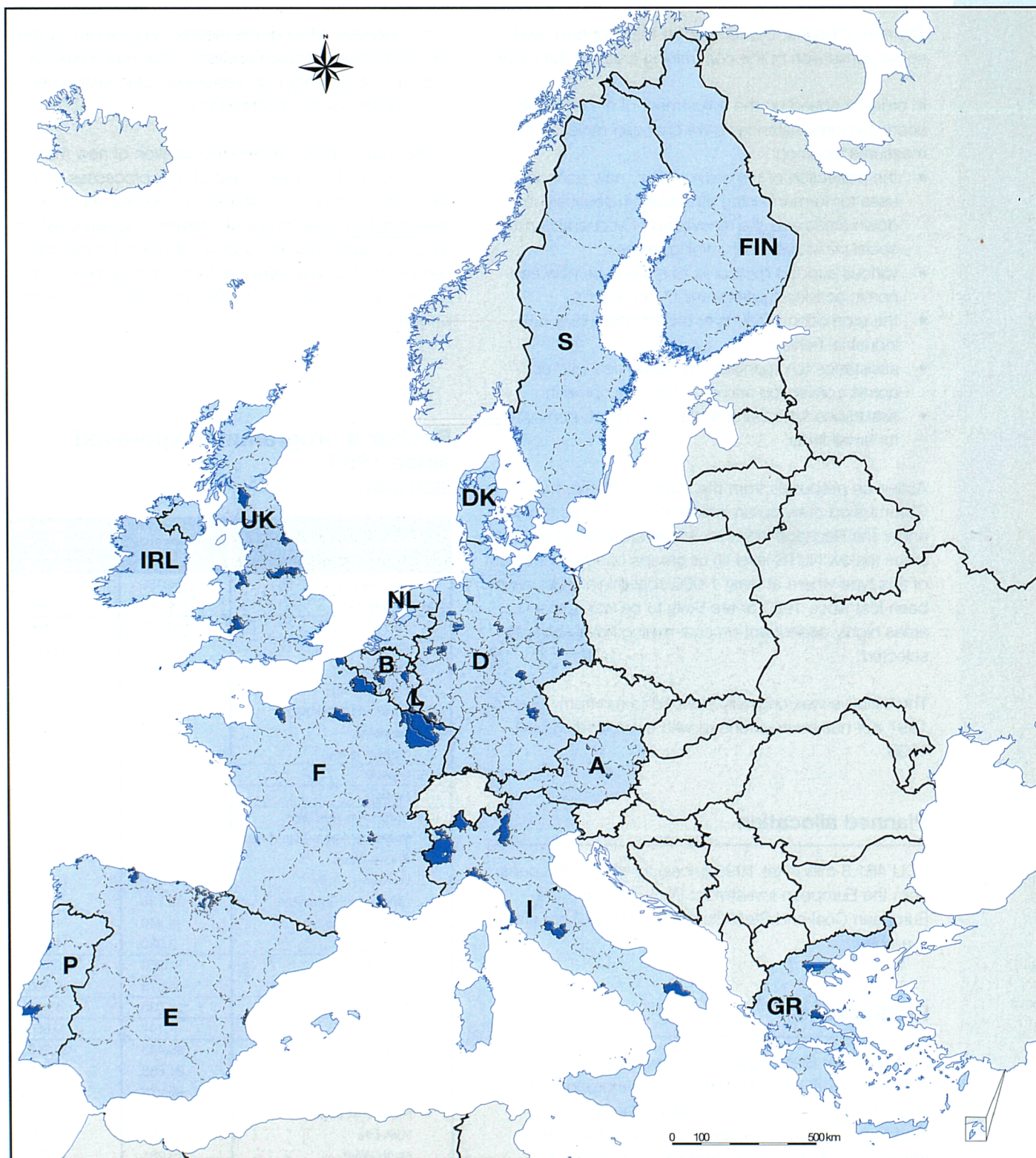
Vocational training and retraining measures are also advocated to help create jobs or preserve existing jobs. Small firms also benefit from assistance for reception infrastructure and joint services, the provision of start-up funds, the redeployment of economic activities and the strengthening of craft and service activities.

### Resider II programmes approved since 1994

(ECU million)

Member States / Regions	Total amount (prices at time of adoption) <sup>(1)</sup>	Contribution of the Structural Funds (prices at time of original allocation) <sup>(2)</sup>
B Charleroi & Centre	24.475	11.900
Liège	28.415	12.530
D Bremen	6.554	3.277
Bayern	12.089	5.392
Sachsen-Anhalt	7.693	5.000
Thüringen	9.185	6.120
Saarland	47.575	12.901
Nordrhein-Westfalen	397.399	101.891
Sachsen	30.288	14.880
Brandenburg	42.381	26.240
Niedersachsen	47.518	14.809
GR Greece	8.939	4.630
E Spain	464.304	72.380
F Nord - Pas-de-Calais	45.740	14.350
Provence-Alpes-Côtes d'Azur	15.262	5.120
Rhône-Alpes	6.061	2.150
Lorraine	73.521	30.740
Picardie	7.222	2.280
Basse-Normandie	21.745	5.070
Bourgogne	3.684	1.820
I Italy	503.246	84.140
L Luxembourg	57.893	13.251
NL The Netherlands	51.500	18.100
A Austria	30.358	5.130
P Portugal	10.774	6.910
UK Wales	28.538	12.800
England	48.854	22.280
Western Scotland	23.925	10.100

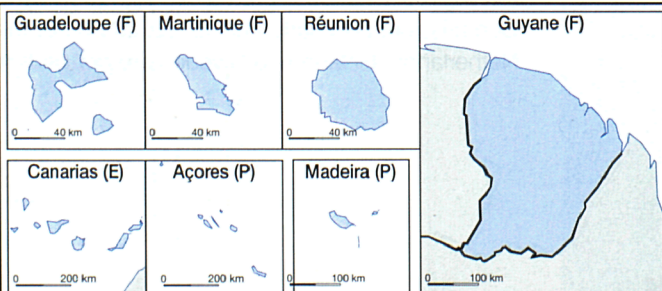




The map of eligible areas has no legal status.  
 The list of areas eligible under the Resider II Initiative was published  
 in the Official Journal of the European Communities (OJ C 338 of  
 2 December 1994 and OJ C 330 of 8 December 1995).



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# RECHAR II (1994-99)

The aim of Rechar II is to support the economic and social conversion of the coal-mining areas of the Union.

In order to speed up the adjustment of areas whose economic circumstances have changed radically, the measures focus on:

- the protection of the environment, new economic uses for former mining structures in seriously run-down areas and the renovation of economic and social infrastructure in mining villages;
- various support measures to encourage new economic activities, particularly by small firms;
- the promotion of tourism, based particularly on industrial heritage;
- assistance to organisations concerned with economic conversion and regional development;
- assistance for training and employment, particularly for small firms.

Acting on proposals from the Member States, the Commission drew up an indicative list of areas eligible under the Rechar II Initiative. These are defined as small areas (below NUTS level III) or groups of adjacent areas of this type where at least 1 000 coal-mining jobs have been lost since 1990 or are likely to be lost. Other areas highly dependent on coal-mining have also been selected.

The Initiative was originally planned to run from 1994 to 1997 but has been extended with extra funding until 1999.

## Planned allocation

ECU 461.8 million (at 1996 prices) for 1994-99. Loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) are also available.

## Programmes

Nine Member States submitted programmes to implement Rechar II. Four submitted a single programme and five (Germany, France, Belgium, the United Kingdom and Italy) submitted regional programmes making a total of 30 programmes approved by the Commission. Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Finland and Sweden are not participating

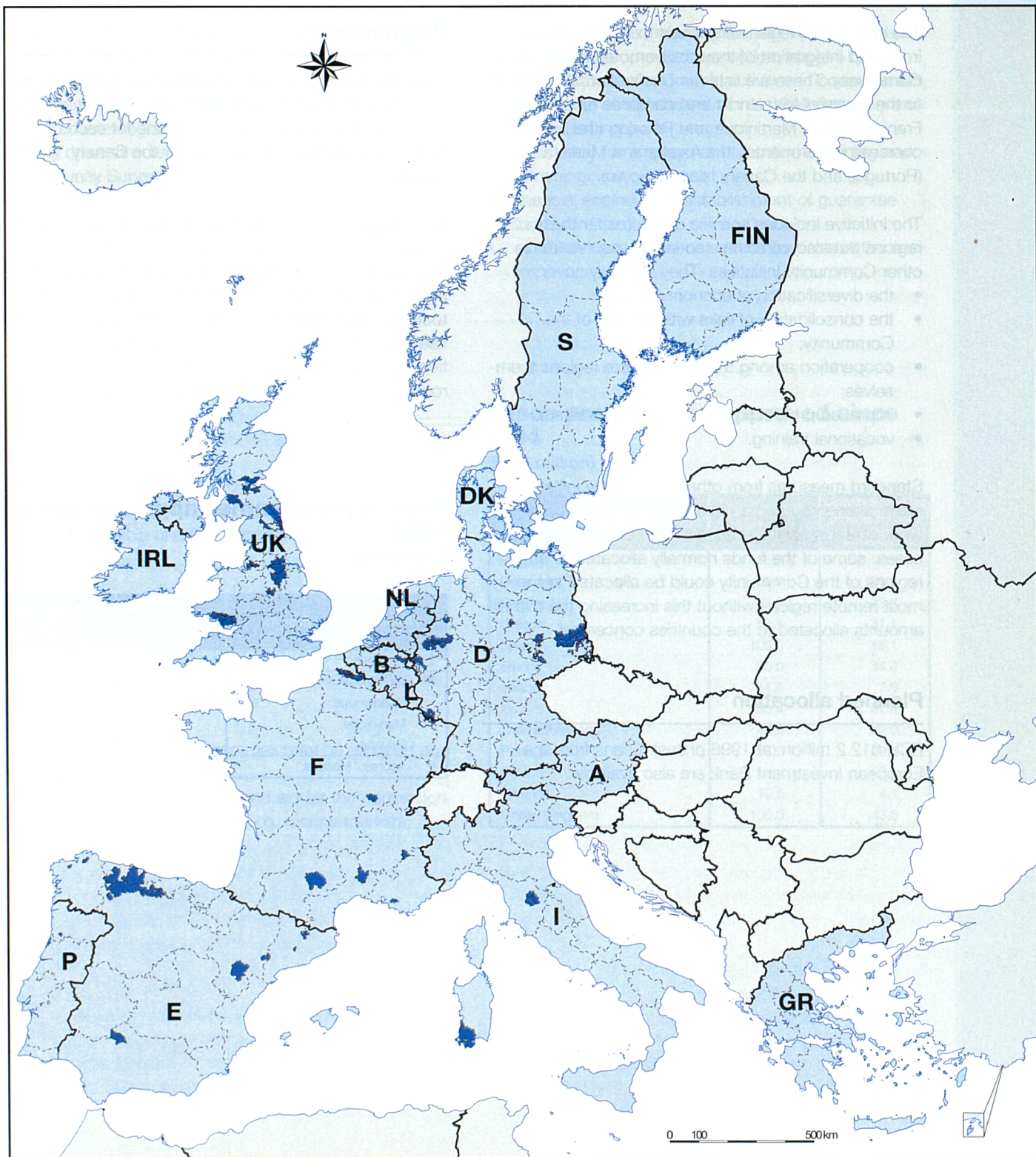
in this Initiative. Most of the measures proposed by the Member States concern environmental improvements such as the site clean-up, restoration of industrial heritage and the reuse of waste land.

Many programmes concern the creation of new markets through the development of new processes, the sale of new products, better access to new technologies and the development of alternative activities. Small firms are particularly involved in measures for the conversion of economic infrastructure. Training measures are principally designed to offer new skills to the unemployed.

## Rechar II programmes approved since 1994 (ECU million)

Member States / Regions	Total amount (prices at time of adoption)	Contribution of the Structural Funds (prices at time of original allocation)
B Limbourg	56.190	14.750
Châtelet	1.860	0.930
D Sachsen	53.630	29.800
Sachsen-Anhalt	30.602	19.220
Thüringen	10.000	5.000
Brandenburg	49.322	30.250
Nordrhein-Westfalen	280.412	66.448
Saarland	22.861	6.260
Niedersachsen	3.300	1.650
GR Greece	2.025	1.500
E Spain	55.969	33.630
F Nord - Pas-de-Calais	39.318	16.680
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	2.024	1.000
Rhône-Alpes	2.024	1.000
Lorraine	25.109	10.790
Languedoc-Roussillon	2.738	1.000
Midi-Pyrénées	4.440	1.130
Bourgogne	3.080	1.520
I Sardegna	1.560	0.770
Toscana	32.573	0.890
A Austria	7.036	1.800
P Portugal	1.147	0.860
UK Wales	46.443	20.210
Eastern Scotland	21.888	9.880
East Midlands	99.278	41.640
North East England	51.153	23.170
Yorkshire	96.191	44.030
North West	15.281	6.820
West Midlands	27.858	12.510
Western Scotland	6.501	3.000



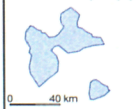


The map of eligible areas has no legal status.  
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 in the Official Journal of the European Communities (OJ C 337 of  
 1 December 1994 and OJ C 330 of 8 December 1995).



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Guadeloupe (F)



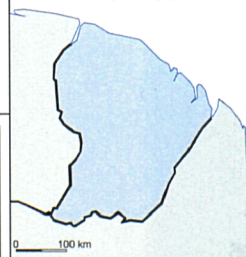
Martinique (F)



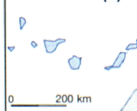
Réunion (F)



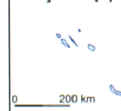
Guyane (F)



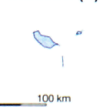
Canarias (E)



Açores (P)



Madeira (P)





## REGIS II (1994-99)

The aim of the Regis II Initiative is to contribute to the improved integration of the most remote regions of the Community. These are listed in Declaration 26 attached to the Treaty of Maastricht and comprise Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion (the French overseas departments), the Azores and Madeira (Portugal) and the Canary Islands (Spain).

The Initiative includes specific measures for these regions but also contains standard measures from other Community Initiatives. They normally cover:

- the diversification of economic activity;
- the consolidation of links with the rest of the Community;
- cooperation among the most remote regions themselves;
- improved protection against natural disasters;
- vocational training.

Standard measures from other Community Initiatives are implemented primarily within the financial framework of Regis II. However, in certain duly justified cases, some of the funds normally allocated to other regions of the Community could be allocated to the most remote regions without this increasing the overall amounts allocated to the countries concerned.

### Planned allocation

ECU 612.2 million (at 1996 prices). Loans from the European Investment Bank are also available.

### Programmes

The three Member States concerned submitted six programmes, all of which were approved. There is one for each French overseas department, one for each of the two Portuguese regions and one for the Canary Islands.

The measures most frequently funded concern the promotion of economic activity, i.e. aid for the diversification of agricultural production, support for small firms and for the development of tourism, particularly cultural tourism. Other measures include communications and telecommunications infrastructure, better living conditions in urban areas, training in new technologies, environmental control and protection against hurricanes.

### Regis II programmes approved since 1994

(ECU million)

Member States / Regions	Total amount	Contribution of the Structural Funds
E Canarias	385	217
F La Réunion	210	116
Guadeloupe	132	61
Martinique	125	61
Guyane	47	28
P Açores / Madeira	157	124



In recent years the fishing industry has had to contend with a very severe structural crisis: over-capacity in the fishing fleet, over-capitalisation and excessive levels of debt, not to mention the fragile economic structure of many coastal regions. The Pesca Initiative complements other structural assistance available under the Community Support Frameworks (CSFs). It concentrates on supporting retraining for fishermen and the diversification of firms in the industry.

Potential beneficiaries are collective public or private bodies (municipalities, chambers of commerce), individuals contributing to diversification (SMEs), public or private bodies concerned with changes in the fisheries sector (cooperatives and non-profit-making organisations) and fishermen and others working in the sector.

## Planned allocation

ECU 300 million (at 1997 prices), half of which will go to regions eligible under Objectives 1 and 6.

## Programmes

Thirteen Member States submitted programmes for the implementation of Pesca. Luxembourg and Austria are not participating in this Initiative.

The measures in the programmes may be grouped as follows:

- investment in production and aid for the conversion of firms to other activities (e.g. marine tourism);

- general projects (mapping the sea, regional fisheries observatories, product promotion, etc.);
- diversification of economic activities in coastal areas (aid for the establishment of new craft firms, conversion of fishing ports, etc.);
- assistance for employment (vocational training and retraining);
- financial engineering (establishment of guarantee funds for firms);
- establishment of service centres for firms in the sector.

## Pesca programmes approved since 1994

(ECU million)

Member States / Regions	Total amount (prices at time of adoption)	Contribution of the Structural Funds (prices at time of original allocation)
Belgium	5.3	2.5
Denmark	59.0	20.0
Germany	63.0	23.6
Greece	62.5	31.1
Spain	105.0	46.1
France	99.0	34.0
Ireland	14.4	7.9
Italy	90.4	37.5
The Netherlands	41.9	12.9
Portugal	54.2	29.4
Finland	8.8	3.5
Sweden	10.5	4.1
United Kingdom	100.0	43.8



In December 1994 the European Council approved a proposal for a multi-annual programme to encourage the process of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland which had begun a few months earlier. The Commission adopted the guidelines for this new Community Initiative in February 1995 and the Programme presented by the British and the Irish governments was approved in July 1995. It was based on the recommendations of a special Task Force which had undertaken wide-ranging consultations with the two governments concerned, the local authorities, businessmen, trade unions, voluntary bodies and NGOs.

The area eligible is the whole of Northern Ireland and the six counties bordering it in Ireland.

## The programme

The programme has been drawn up to encourage consolidation of the cessation of hostilities in Northern Ireland by providing those engaged in economic and social life with the resources to facilitate movement towards a lasting peace. Aid will be specially targeted at local level. The aim is two-fold: to promote the social inclusion of those who are on the margins of social and economic life and to boost economic growth in the areas hardest hit by the conflict.

This will be achieved through seven sub-programmes:

### 1. Support for employment (13.4% of investment)

Measures of four types are planned: a fresh boost for the economy, the creation of new jobs, improved access, and higher quality services as regards training, education and recruitment and assistance to support structures.

### 2. Rural and urban regeneration (16.9% of investment)

In Northern Ireland the measures to revitalise urban areas will concern mainly in Belfast and Londonderry, but they could also be applied elsewhere. In rural areas they will be based on local communities, economic development, water tourism, fishing and aquaculture. In

Ireland the measures will focus on the renovation of towns and villages, tourism and the development of rural communities.

### 3. Cross-border development (15.2% of investment)

The measures will encourage the establishment of trading and cultural links, the improvement of infrastructure, cooperation between public associations and reconciliation between communities.

### 4. Social inclusion (22.6% of investment)

The measures concern a number of target groups: women, children, young people, the victims of violence, ex-prisoners and vulnerable social groups. They will seek to prevent exclusion, promote reconciliation and assist support structures.

### 5. Industrial development and productive investment (15.6% of investment)

The aim is to stimulate private investment resulting in lasting jobs, particularly in disadvantaged areas, using measures to promote investment, new industrial development services and trade.

### 6. The creation of local partnerships - Northern Ireland only (14.8% of investment)

This special sub-programme is intended to encourage the creation of local partnerships at district council level. Such partnerships are recognised as a means of applying the energies and talents of various groups to joint projects and so can make an important contribution to implementation of the programme. The action plans supported in this sub-programme may include projects which would normally be classified in other sub-programmes such as social inclusion and investment in production.

### 7. Technical assistance (1.5% of investment)

This programme is intended to assist local groups to develop project proposals, to publicise and provide information on the programme and to support its management, monitoring and evaluation.



## Planned allocation

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The Structural Funds contributed ECU 300 million to the first three years of the five-year programme, total amount of which, including national part-financing, comes to ECU 416 million. Of this amount, 80% will go to Northern Ireland and 20% to the six border counties of Ireland. The Commission has proposed giving a further ECU 100 million for 1998 and intends to propose a further allocation for 1999.

## Implementation

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To involve the largest possible number of people in decision-making and in implementation, the distribution of resources is highly decentralised. Almost 60% of the assistance is managed by non-governmental organisations through two separate distribution channels. The first channel comprises intermediary finance bodies (trust bodies and cooperatives) and sectoral partners who are together responsible for almost 40% of the resources. Five intermediary finance bodies operate in Northern Ireland, two in the border counties and eight

on both sides of the border. These independent bodies are used to working with the groups at which the programme is aimed. The sectoral partners have the same role but they operate only in Northern Ireland and are linked to government agencies or departments.

The second channel has a geographic base: 26 district partnerships in Northern Ireland and six Task Forces in the border counties of Ireland which consist of representatives of local interests and which will take responsibility for 17% of resources.

The remaining 43% will be managed by government agencies or departments, mainly to promote economic development and infrastructure.

The extensive consultations which marked the preparatory phase have been extended through the establishment of a consultative forum comprising representatives of a large number of interests in the eligible areas. It makes a direct contribution to the Monitoring Committee through its joint chairmen, who are members of the Committee. The forum has proved to be a place where information and opinions about all aspects of the programme are expressed and then forwarded to the Monitoring Committee.







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## COMMUNICATION TO THE MEMBER STATES

laying down guidelines for operational programmes which Member States are invited to establish in the framework of a Community Interreg initiative concerning transnational cooperation on spatial planning

(INTERREG II C)

(96/C 200/07)

1. At its meeting on 8 May 1996, the European Commission decided to develop the initiative concerning cross-border cooperation and selected energy networks to include a third strand (hereinafter referred to as Interreg II C) concerning transnational cooperation on spatial planning within the meaning of Article 11 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, last amended by Regulation (EC) No 3193/94, and Article 3 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4254/88, amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93, and Article 5 of Regulation (EEC) No 4256/88, amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2085/93.
2. In the context of Interreg II, Community assistance in the form of loans and grants and technical assistance is made available for measures and in areas which respect the guidelines laid down in this notice, and which are included in operational programmes submitted singly or jointly by Member States and approved by the European Commission.
3. In terms of its objectives, as well as its programmes, Interreg II C is entirely distinct from strands A (transnational cooperation) and B (selected energy networks), as much by the extent of the area covered and the types of partnerships which it seeks to promote as by the emphasis it places on the development of a strategic vision for the spatial planning of the areas in question.

In effect, the concept of spatial planning was first introduced in the regulations on the Structural Funds with a view to undertaking exploratory studies (Article 10 of the ERDF). It then developed at the Community level through two Commission communications (Europe 2000 and Europe 2000+), the conclusions of eight successive informal ministerial meetings, in particular in Leipzig (September 1994) and Strasbourg (March 1995), as well as the interest shown in the matter by the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions.

4. The implementation of the Community Initiative Interreg II C is achieved within the framework of the competence of each Member State as regards

spatial planning. It will not prejudice other actions in this field which are the responsibility of the Member States.

### I. DEVELOPMENT AIMS

5. The aims of this strand of the initiative are:

- to help restore the balance between different areas of the European Union through structuring measures that serve Community interests by contributing to the promotion of economic and social cohesion. What is involved is to seek an ordered and optimum allocation of activities in spatial terms, the development of adequate communication networks between these activities, and the correction of disparities and development differences, in a strategy for the sustainable development of the Union's territory, that it is desired to make balanced and competitive,
- to foster transnational cooperation initiated in this field by Member States and other authorities with responsibilities for spatial planning within a framework of common territorial development priorities adopted for continuous geographical entities covering areas in more than one Member State,
- to improve the impact of Community policies on spatial development,
- to help Member States and their regions take a preventive and cooperative approach to the problems of water resources management posed by floods and drought.

6. Interreg II C is thus made up of three elements:

- spatial planning and transnational cooperation measures,
- spatial planning and transnational cooperation against flooding,



— spatial planning and action against drought.

#### 7. Spatial planning and transnational cooperation measures

Several Member States have signed transnational cooperation agreements covering wide geographical areas (e.g. the Alps, Mediterranean sea, Baltic sea) in relation to territorial development and more specifically spatial planning.

Over and above these agreements, what is involved is support for the joint development of other transnational groupings going beyond simple cross-border cooperation and forming groupings involving at least three States (at least two of which are Member States), taking account of the size of possible territories involved in cooperation.

#### 8. Spatial planning and transnational cooperation against flooding

For several years now various Member States have been facing an increase in spatial development problems relating to flooding. The origin of these problems has at least in part been attributed to the lack of planning and development measures for river basins, in particular where the latter run through several Member States.

The objective of Community participation is to promote three types of measures:

- joint drafting and implementation of cooperative plans and programmes for the development of river basins,
- spatial planning measures that help prevent floods,
- cooperation between Member States and local and regional authorities aimed at developing the abovementioned measures, in particular through the pooling of know-how and experience.

#### 9. Spatial planning and action against drought

The regions of the Mediterranean area have been particularly affected for several years by increasingly serious drought conditions.

Over and above climatic factors, the worsening consequences of this phenomenon are generally attributed, at least in part, to a series of inappropriate spatial planning practices, and a lack of

coordination between the partners concerned, in regard to the management of water resources,

The objective of Community participation is to promote two types of measure:

- actions contributing to sustainable territorial development, through the avoidance of excessive water consumption, while encouraging a rational and equitable distribution of water resources,
- cooperation between Member States and local and regional authorities on the abovementioned measures, in particular through the pooling of know-how and experience, including that of European and Mediterranean non-member countries.

## II. PRESENTATION OF PROGRAMMES

10. When preparing operational programmes for submission under the Interreg II C initiative, Member States and regional and local authorities will present a joint strategy related to the area in question and proposals derived from it.

11. For each operational programme, a joint management structure will be competent for all the territory in question for implementing the joint strategy of the transnational programme and to facilitate the implementation of the joint projects between the Member States. Its functioning and the management methods should be defined taking into account the peculiarities of each situation, with a pragmatic approach.

Priority will be given to proposals made in cooperation with regional and local authorities which include the creation of development of shared institutional or administrative structures, where possible within existing cooperation frameworks, for implementing broader and deeper transnational cooperation, supported, where appropriate, not only by public institutions but also by private and voluntary organizations and agencies.

In addition, the Commission wishes to develop joint procedures for transnational cooperation where appropriate.

12. Measures assisted under this initiative should be designed to have a global impact so that one Member State can benefit from assistance provided on the territory of another State. Particular attention will be given to measures that



benefit the most remote regions, even if the measures are not implemented on the territory of those regions.

### III. DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE AREAS

13. On the basis of proposals drawn up jointly by the Member States concerned, the Commission will adopt a list of a limited number of transnational groupings of geographically continuous areas involved in cooperation covering in principle at least three States (at least two of which are Member States). One Member State may participate in several transnational cooperation groupings. Within this group of States, cooperation between a smaller number of States on particular aspects will be possible.
14. The regions targeted by the flood mitigation actions are the drainage basins of the rivers in question.
15. In addition, a list of regions eligible for measures conducted at national level concerning the fight against drought will be drawn up by the Commission from the eligible regions, and especially from Objective I regions, on the basis of properly-documented proposals from the Member States concerned (Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece).
16. Special rules will be adopted by the Commission to promote the participation of European and Mediterranean non-member countries in these transnational cooperation groupings in the Union. In such cases, an application from a minimum of two Member States may suffice to establish the transnational cooperation area with those countries. However, it should be recalled that Community assistance under the Interreg II C initiative can only be granted to those parts of the area situated in the European Union.

### IV. ELIGIBLE ACTIONS AND MEASURES

#### 17. (a) *spatial planning and transnational cooperation*

The choice of measures selected for the purpose of preparing an operational programme from the eligibility list defined below will be carried out according to priorities and integrated strategies jointly established by the Member States. All measures should be consistent with a long-term sustainable development of the transnational region in question.

— Preparatory actions for the implementation of transnational strategies, notably the identification (through detailed studies, definition of common criteria and the development of planning methods) of environmentally sensitive areas or areas that may benefit from priority measures to assist spatial planning,

— measures for the improvement of the territorial impact of Community policies, excluding the financing of infrastructures, for example:

— feasibility studies on the improvement of secondary land transport routes,

— measures for the development of sea transport, in particular insofar as they are of interest to the peripheral regions,

— actions for the development of multimodal transport,

— promotion of air links between regional airports for the benefit of peripheral regions,

with a view to promoting sustainable mobility,

— actions to improve the territorial management of the marine areas at the periphery of the Union, from the point of view both of economic development and environmental protection and improvement,

— measures to develop the coastal areas of the European Union, for example:

— integrated coastal development,

— prevention and control of sea pollution,

— protection of the environment,

— development of transnational land administration systems and regulations as a basis for decisions on land-use, planning, economic development and management of land.

Where it is demonstrated that transnational cooperation contributes to their effectiveness and their territorial impact is substantial:

— measures to restore, develop and protect areas affected by permanent geographical



- handicaps (e.g. mountains, Arctic areas) and to manage the countryside,
- integrated measures preparing, promoting or accompanying sustainable economic development and the integrated management of resources in given categories of zones (e.g. wetlands, coastal areas, tourist areas) belonging to the same transnational geographical area,
  - economic development measures with a view to sustainable development, for example:
    - promotion of high-quality tourism,
    - development of networks of medium-sized towns,
    - diversification in rural areas,
    - cooperation using information and communication technologies, e.g. in tourism,
  - measures for sustainable development of the mountainous regions of the Union as living areas, economic areas and natural areas,
  - measures for improving transnational cooperation in the field of spatial planning with the non-Member States,
  - the promotion of technology transfer and cooperation networks, research and higher education and technology transfer centres, and the creation of information systems benefiting in particular remote areas. This could include ERDF and ESF support for studies, pilot projects and the development of human resources;
- (b) *spatial development planning and transnational cooperation against flooding*
- and
- (c) *spatial development planning and action against drought*
- measures concerning:
    - the identification of sensitive areas or areas that may benefit from priority measures to assist spatial planning [b + c],
    - studies on the hydraulic and ecological balance of major river basins, on the cause of flooding, in particular in relation to land use policies and practices, preparation of joint plans feasibility studies, application of expertise, experience and techniques relating to water conservation [b + c],
    - drawing up guidelines and measures concerning the definition of priorities and strategies on the use of land and spatial planning for sustainable hydrological management [b + c],
    - preparation of joint integrated plans for the sustainable development and improved use of available resources, with a view to avoiding overuse (between relevant authorities, e.g. authorities responsible for spatial planning or water resource management) [c],
    - improvement of measures relating to the prevention of flooding in drainage basins (such as improvement of dykes and water management measures), especially when these are attributable to poor physical planning, including [b]:
      - measures aimed at lowering water levels through the restoration of natural overflows and the reduction of intensive land use having a negative effect on water retention levels,
      - a coherent set of environmentally friendly measures for undyked river systems,
    - studies on the water resource and ecological balance in areas with low rainfall [c];
    - improvement of irrigation techniques, careful choice of crops and cultivation methods, reduction of consumption, reduction of losses from supply systems, management of seasonal peaks, reuse of used water, identification of measures with quantifiable economic objectives and value as examples, in particular in the agricultural sector [b + c];



- promotion of good practice:
    - systems of supervision, coordination and exchange of information (in particular using computer systems), as well as emergency intervention planning,
    - protection and preparation of the sustainable restoration of sensitive areas,
    - measures to raise the awareness of the groups particularly concerned,
    - joint definition of basic training requirements,
    - promotion of implementation that can be used for demonstration purposes,
    - incentive measures.
18. With regard to technical assistance for all the eligible measures, the Commission will:
- help the Member States and regional and local authorities, particularly in Objectives 1 and 6 regions, to prepare and implement programmes,
  - encourage and facilitate the exchange of information and experience on transnational cooperation,
  - organize multilateral meeting between Member States to facilitate cooperation.
- V. COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION TO THE FINANCING OF INTERREG II C
19. Interreg II C operational programmes and projects will be jointly financed by Member States and the Community. The total contribution of the Community Structural Funds to strand C of the Interreg II initiative for 1995 to 1999 is estimated at ECU 415 million. Community expenditure in regions not classified as eligible under Objectives 1, 2, 5b and 6 must represent a minority share of the Community contribution. In the case of the countries of Central Eastern and Europe, the CIS and the Mediterranean, transnational activities may be financed under the Phare, Tacis and MEDA programmes respectively.
20. The Commission decision on the amount of Community assistance to be allocated to the various operational programmes will be made on the basis of the population and level of development of the areas concerned, as well as the quality of the programmes submitted. The amounts allocated will be decided in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations governing the Structural Funds and depending on the financial capacity of the national and regional authorities concerned. In evaluating the quality of the programmes, the Commission will consider the following factors in particular:
- the existence of a joint structure covering the whole of the territory concerned and evidence of joint cooperation and financing procedures as well as common modalities for the implementation of the programme,
  - the existence of a coherent strategy for the area concerned, considered as an integrated geographical unit, with an appropriate combination of measures and a clear definition of the development objectives, quantified where appropriate, in which the objectives of the operational programmes have been properly integrated,
  - the forecast impact of the measures proposed within the areas under Interreg II C, taking account of the problems to be solved and the objectives set for this strand,
  - the complementarity of the assistance requested from the Community with the contributions granted by the national and regional authorities to support the operational programme,
  - the forecast efficiency of the arrangements for the implementation, monitoring and assessment of the programmes and the degree of involvement of local and regional authorities in that implementation.
- VI. IMPLEMENTATION
21. Member States wishing to benefit from assistance under this strand of Interreg II are invited to submit detailed operational programme proposals within six months of the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. Operational programme proposals submitted after that date will not necessarily be

considered by the Commission. The C strand of the Interreg II initiative will be administered separately from the other two strands of the initiative.

22. The costs relating to zones covered by Objective I will be indicated separately in the programme. Where appropriate, expenditure relating to areas not eligible under Objectives 1, 2, 5b and 6 should also be indicated separately.
23. Third countries cooperating in the implementation of a programme and receiving funding under other Community programmes, in particular Phare, Tacis and MEDA, should submit their applications for assistance under the latter following the procedures governing them. To facilitate the implementation of the transnational or cross-border projects or measures the Member States and third countries involved should adopt appropriate coordination procedures in association with the Commission.
24. The proposals should include an assessment of the situation and indicate their objectives. They should

be accompanied by a schedule and a statement of the criteria and procedures for implementation, monitoring and assessment. During and after the programming period, the Commission will assess, in partnership with the Member States, the results of the programmes submitted. The European Parliament, the Management Committee for Community initiatives and the monitoring committees will be informed of the results of the assessment and the measures taken as a consequence.

25. All correspondence relating to this notice should be addressed to:

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and Cohesion  
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200 Rue de la Loi  
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## COMMUNICATION TO THE MEMBER STATES

laying down amended guidelines for operational programmes or global grants which Member States are invited to propose within the framework of a Community initiative on employment and development of human resources aimed at promoting employment growth mainly through the development of human resources

(96/C 200/06)

1. At the meeting of 15 June 1994 the Commission of the European Communities decided to introduce a framework initiative on employment and development of human resources in the context of Article 11 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4235/88 as modified by Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93. At its meeting on 8 May 1996 the Commission of the European Communities decided to introduce a further strand to this initiative entitled Employment — Integra covering the planning period 1996 to 1999.
2. Within the framework of this initiative the Community may grant subsidies for measures which satisfy the guidelines laid down in this communication and which are included in proposals for operational programmes or global grants submitted by the Member States and approved by the European Commission. In addition, other Community financial instruments may make an appropriate contribution to this initiative.
- (b) to improve the employment prospects of the disabled ('Employment — Horizon');
- (c) to promote labour market integration of young people, in particular those without basic qualifications or training ('Employment — Youthstart');
- (d) to promote measures to improve the access to the labour market and the employability of vulnerable groups who find themselves excluded from it, or at risk of being excluded from it ('Employment — Integra').
5. Positive benefits will accrue right across the initiative from the active cross-fertilization of ideas and experiences promoted within each strand. A coordinated response is called for in submitting requests for support under this initiative. Member States should ensure that the overall package of proposals is a well-balanced set of measures related to each of the strands of the initiative. The proposals should also ensure coherence of action between the four strands.

### I. OBJECTIVES

3. This initiative aims to contribute to the development of human resources and to improve the workings of the labour market with a view to enhancing employment growth, to promoting social solidarity in the European Union and to promoting equal opportunities for women on the labour market. As such it is a direct follow-up to the Commission's White Paper on growth, competitiveness and Employment, the main thrust of which is to put the highest possible premium on pro-active labour market measures to stimulate employment-intensive growth.

The Commission, in partnership with Member States, will aim to ensure complementarity between measures assisted under this initiative and those supported under other Community programmes, in particular in the field of vocational training.

### II. PRIORITIES

4. The initiative has four interrelated objectives corresponding to four distinct but interconnected strands:
  - (a) to promote equal employment opportunities for women, in particular with regard to training measures, access to future-oriented occupations and to management positions ('Employment-NOW');
6. Over and above the measures taken by Member States themselves and the other activities supported by the European Social Fund, this initiative is intended to serve as a catalyst for Community-wide innovation as well as for the organized transfer of expertise and the dissemination of good practice between Member States.

In order to achieve higher added value for the Community, Member States' proposals should, in particular:

- (a) demonstrate an overall transnational dimension, giving priority to transnational exchange, cooperation and dissemination of information, in particular involving partners in Objectives 1 and 6 regions;
- (b) consist of measures and actions which are innovative;
- (c) give priority to improving the efficiency of training and employment systems and services and the promotion of transparency of qualifications;
- (d) encourage a more active and coordinated approach at local level to obtain a greater employment impact by involving in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the measures all relevant actors designated by the Member States, including local and regional authorities, economic and social partners and voluntary bodies;
- (e) reinforce Community policies as well as Community programmes especially in the field of human resources and labour market integration;
- (f) provide for the necessary flexibility to accommodate needs which cannot be foreseen at the first planning stage and which call for a special effort from the Community.

### III. REGIONAL ELIGIBILITY AND CONCENTRATION

- 7. This initiative is applicable to the whole of the territory of the Union. However, particular emphasis will to be placed on the needs of the less favoured regions. A number of measures will therefore apply only to priority regions (Objectives 1, 2, 5b and 6).

### IV. ELIGIBLE MEASURES

- 8. The list of measures which follows presents all eligible measures which may be financed under this initiative. When preparing their proposals for operational programmes or for global grants. Member States are invited to select, in cooperation with the Commission, a more limited list of measures per strand on which to concentrate financial assistance.
- 9. 'Employment — NOW' (equal employment opportunities for women)

This strand aims to help to reduce unemployment among women and to improve the position of those

already in the workforce, through the promotion of equal employment opportunities. It will support the development of innovative strategies to respond to changes in the organization of work and changing job requirements.

The transnational dimension of the initiative will permit a comparison of different experiences, as well as the transfer of know-how and experience and cooperation. It will also reinforce the development of innovatory actions in favour of women, especially in Objectives 1 and 6 areas and in sectors where such actions are at present less developed. To ensure a maximum multiplier effect, particular attention will be given to the development of the training of trainers as well as the structure of training programmes, methodologies and tools.

The first NOW initiative demonstrated the need to develop strong and active partnerships at local, national and transnational level. These should involve enterprises, public and private bodies responsible for training and employment, bodies responsible for equality issues, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in such a way that best practice is gradually taken up and incorporated into mainstream training and employment systems. Priority should be given to actions in which the Social Partners and women's organizations are actively involved at all levels.

Within this strand the following measures will be eligible for assistance:

- (a) *the development, in particular through transnational cooperation, of appropriate training, guidance, counselling and employment systems, including:*
  - development of cooperation and networking between training bodies in order to promote equality of opportunities for women in the labour market, with particular emphasis on improving access to and promoting women's progress in, rapidly developing sectors and new areas of work, and to their access to management responsibilities,
  - the strengthening of links between training bodies, higher educational establishments and enterprises to improve the professional integration of women (Objectives 1 and 6 regions only),
  - support to educational establishments for the development of innovatory educational



material which improves equality of opportunity for women in the labour market (Objectives 1 and 6 regions only),

- support for the creation or development of guidance/counselling and pre-training services for women,
- support for the creation or development at local level of advisory services to facilitate the start-up of SMEs and cooperatives,
- support for the creation or development of relevant care services infrastructure, where they are less developed (Objectives 1 and 6 regions only);

(b) *the delivery, in particular on a transnational basis, of training, including:*

- the provision of a comprehensive package of flexible training and other accompanying measures, including information, guidance, counselling, pre-training, personal development, upgrading of basic skills and qualifying training, re-training, job-search assistance, business traineeships and in-job support. Particular attention should be given to new job requirements, new qualifications and skills, notably in the area of R&TD and innovative technologies,
- vocational training measures, including preparatory training, geared specifically to the needs of running businesses or cooperatives,
- training for trainers, for those responsible for personnel or for negotiating training matters within enterprises, in order to make them more aware of and active in equality issues,
- training in equality of opportunities for those responsible for personnel in the public sector, for educational personnel and for equality advisers in educational establishments (Objectives 1 and 6 regions only),
- the development of innovative assessment methods to integrate within career structures all the experiences and activities carried out by women, including those that are not formally recognized, in order to promote accreditation of prior learning,

— initial and continuing training especially in SMEs and in sectors subject to industrial change, to adapt the female workforce to the changing labour market and to improve their career development,

— initial and continuing training for appropriate care services personnel with a view to improving the quality of these services;

(c) *job creation and support, particularly through transnational cooperation, for the start up of small businesses and cooperatives by women, including:*

— development of networking and cooperation on local employment initiatives, aimed at mobilizing the capacities of women to build on local resources, in particular in areas such as tourism, culture, environment, care and for job creation in rural areas,

— aid for the creation of self-employed activities, small enterprises and cooperatives including recruitment aid,

— aid for setting-up of financial support instruments for enterprise creation by women.

Within the framework of measures provided under (a), (b) and (c), the Commission will support the operating costs of care services for dependants in order to facilitate participation in training and employment of women with children and/or other dependants;

(d) *information dissemination and awareness actions, particularly through transnational cooperation, including:*

— measures directed in particular at the Social Partners, personnel of education, training and employment services, local and regional authorities and the general public to heighten awareness about the need to act in favour of equal opportunities between men and women in the labour market,

— the setting-up of networks, creation or improvement of databases and the carrying out of studies linked with the objectives of this strand and the dissemination of the results of best practice,

- gender-related monitoring and assessment of vocational training and employment actions.

10. 'Employment — Horizon' (improving the employment prospects of the disabled)

This strand will promote, with an important emphasis on the transnational dimension, measures to improve access to the labour market for disabled people who find themselves excluded from it or those at the risk of being excluded.

Overcoming the problems of disabled people has to be tackled through two main types of action. The first is the improvement of the quality of training especially the development of new employment skills and qualifications. The second includes job creation actions, in particular through new forms of work organization, through employment aids and support for work in the open labour market and through developments in relation to sheltered employment. Emphasis should be placed on a bottom-up approach.

The strand will reinforce in particular measures under Objective 3 of the Structural Funds to facilitate the occupational integration of those exposed to exclusion from the labour market. It will also draw on the previous experiences of relevant Community programmes and particularly on the lessons of the first Horizon programme.

The partners involved at national and transnational level will include enterprises, public and private bodies responsible for training and employment, universities and research institutes, regional and local authorities, and non-governmental organizations. Priority should be given to actions in which the social partners are actively involved at all levels.

Within the scope of this strand, the following measures will be eligible for assistance:

(a) *the development, in particular through transnational cooperation, of appropriate training, guidance, counselling and employment systems, including:*

- support for the creation or development of tailored advisory services and local development agencies to help to create jobs for

disabled people particularly in the sectors where potential employment growth appears high (Objectives 1, 2, 5b and 6 only),

- the adaptation of the workplace, in particular through the introduction of new technologies, and the development of conditions for distance work,
- support for the implementation of flexible training and learning systems such as distance and interactive computer learning,
- the improvement of access to training and work-related services through the adaptation of buildings and transport systems (Objectives 1 and 6 regions only);

(b) *the delivery, in particular through transnational cooperation, of training, including:*

- training for qualifications and skills related to the use by disabled people of technologies in the work or training place,
- training of disabled people, in new skills and qualifications, especially for sectors where employment growth appears high and in the areas of R&TD and innovative technologies,
- training of disabled people (functional, psychological and social rehabilitation, pre-training, upgrading of basic skills, retraining) preceded and accompanied by on-going assessment and counselling. This will include *inter alia* 'on the job' training modules linked to special courses for specific target groups to improve integration into the labour market,
- training schemes for experts and for human resources personnel in the field of reorganization of work and adaptation of the workplace,
- training or upgrading of skills and qualifications of advisers, local development agents, trainers, social workers, representatives of the social partners and those responsible for



personnel in the private sector in order to improve their understanding and awareness in matters concerning the integration of disabled people into sectors where employment growth appears high;

— support for information services and support structures such as networks for the dissemination of this information.

(c) *job creation and support, particularly on a trans-national basis, for the start-up of enterprises, co-operatives and public-private partnerships, including:*

- job creation measures designed to exploit local potential for developing new types of employment based on innovative approaches to work organization. Introduction of such approaches into enterprises in order to prevent job loss of disabled workers,
- innovative approaches to reducing the labour costs for employers of groups with lower productivity in the labour market,
- development of supported employment places and new employment schemes (through, for example, sheltered employment and co-operatives),
- job creation actions to facilitate integration into the labour market and to offset possible loss of benefits in the transition from a protected environment,
- support to local employment initiatives including public-private partnerships and involving local communities in particular in sectors where employment-intensive growth appears high;

(d) *information dissemination and awareness actions, including:*

- support for wide dissemination of information on employment and training opportunities in a format accessible to disabled people,
- actions to raise the awareness of the general public, the social partners and education, training and employment services personnel with regard to the employment potential of disabled people, in particular through the publication of codes of good practice,

11. 'Employment — Youthstart' (promoting labour market integration of young people)

One of the main conclusions of the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment is that more effort is required to enable, young people to participate effectively in the labour market. Young people who have left education without a qualification face particular problems of integration. They often cannot compete effectively in an already difficult labour market, and they face the danger of long-term unemployment and potential alienation from society.

In order to address this fundamental problem the Commission proposed in its White Paper, endorsed by the Heads of State or Government in December, a scheme called Youthstart. The aim of the scheme is to stimulate actions by Member States leading progressively in the longer term to the provision of a youth guarantee throughout the Union. The idea is that every young person under the age of 20 would eventually be guaranteed access either to full-time employment or to a recognized form of education or training, including apprenticeship or other forms of linked work and training. Special efforts would be targeted at young people leaving school with no diploma or basic qualifications. As far as possible, work experience would be industry- or service-based. However, the huge scope for employment in the fields of environment, urban regeneration and the care sector would also be exploited. Youthstart would guarantee each of its citizens a stake in the development of the Union. At the same time it would guarantee the Union the development of its greatest resource, namely its young people, who all too often and all too quickly can drift into unemployment, often long-term, and eventually exclusion.

The basis of Youthstart would be national programmes tailored to the requirements of each Member State receiving where appropriate support through the Community support frameworks. More limited but carefully targeted resources will be channelled through Employment — Youthstart mainly for pilot actions. Employment — Youthstart will act as a catalyst for the scheme as a whole. The scheme has as its long-term objective the progressive introduction of measures to ensure that all young people have access either to full-time employment or to a

recognized form of education or training. Employment — Youthstart will ensure the development of the innovative and transnational dimension of Youthstart. It will assert the development of structured networks of projects and programmes in order to ensure the exchange of good practice and experience. In exceptional and duly justified circumstances. Member States may include young persons over the age of 20 within the framework of Employment — Youthstart.

To maximize the value of Youthstart, it will be linked to the establishment of agreed standards and targets. These standards and targets, to which the initiative would make an essential contribution, would include a coherent link with the labour market, minimum training/qualification standards, independent counselling, adequate post-activity placement, remuneration, a full range of 'soft infrastructure' support (childcare, literacy, etc), role of social security and planned, structured transnational exchange opportunities.

Within this strand of the initiative the following measures, designed to complement the introduction or development of appropriate measures within national programmes, will be eligible for assistance:

- (a) *the development, in the context of assuring the necessary complementarity with other related actions of the ESF and those supported under the Leonardo programme and in particular on a transnational basis, of appropriate training, guidance, counselling and employment systems, in the public and private sectors as appropriate, including:*
  - the setting, of targets and standards in regard to careers guidance, pre-training, vocational training, apprenticeships, placement activity, supporting measures and evaluation,
  - identification, adaptation and transfer of existing good practice models relating to labour market integration of young people,
  - the conception, development and delivery of innovative approaches to labour market integration of young people especially through distance learning,
  - facilitating a more active interaction between education, vocational training and the labour market to enhance job opportunities generally;
- (b) *the provision, where appropriate on a transnational basis, mainly by building on pilot actions and experience gained in related Community programmes, especially under the proposed Leonardo programme, of training and placement, including:*
  - structured training and placement programmes for young people, with a particular emphasis on enhancing and reinforcing vocational, personal, entrepreneurial and linguistic skills, to be coordinated effectively with local programmed training and placement activity,
  - the training of trainers and placement personnel particularly those designing and delivering services at local level, in order to improve labour market integration of young people,
  - facilitating special training and placement experience, particularly in the fields of the arts, cultural heritage, environmental protection, urban regeneration and care services,
  - the application of innovative models which can support and enhance local activity;
- (c) *assisting job creation, in particular through transnational cooperation, including:*
  - measures aimed at young people wishing to become self-employed with particular emphasis on developing relationships with young entrepreneurs in other Member States, transnational trading agencies, and self help networks,
  - transnational exchanges between local development agencies in order to identify and apply innovative support and development models,
  - support for local employment initiatives aimed at the integration of young people, particularly in the fields of the arts, cultural heritage, environmental protection, urban regeneration and the care sector;
- (d) *information dissemination and awareness actions, in particular on a transnational basis, including:*
  - measures aimed at raising awareness, especially among the Social Partners and of



agencies concerned, of the particular integration problems facing young people and of possible responses,

- support for related information services at national, regional and local level,
- information activities aimed at promoting the Employment — Youthstart programme among young people.

## 12. 'Employment — Integra' (improving access to the labour market and employability of vulnerable groups)

This strand will promote measures to improve the access to the labour market and employability of those who find themselves excluded from it. It is aimed at the vulnerable groups who are at a severe disadvantage on the labour market due to a lack of education, training, or sufficient work experience and who require substantial support for their effective social and economic integration or reintegration.

Target groups will continue to include those disadvantaged groups previously covered by Employment-Horizon, such as the long-term unemployed, jobless single parents, the homeless, itinerants, gypsies and travellers, prisoners and ex-prisoners, substance abusers, etc.

However, a particular emphasis should be given to actions that focus on the special needs of migrants, refugees and other similarly vulnerable groups, who are likely to be faced with greater discrimination on the labour market, as a consequence of the rise in social tension, racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism that Europe is witnessing. The problem is European in scope, yet it is equally clear that it is essentially national and even local in nature. To be successful, strategies for the fight against discrimination need to be people-driven and based on broad cross-community partnerships. The Community initiatives, with their emphasis on bottom-up methods of implementation and on approaches that encourage cooperation and partnership in the pursuit of shared aims, are uniquely placed instruments to promote such a culture of civic responsibility.

Greater emphasis should also be placed on actions targeted at disadvantaged urban areas, where community-based approaches to the revitalization of neighbourhoods could be appropriately combined with job creation initiatives aimed at the potential new sources of jobs highlighted in the White Paper

on growth, competitiveness and employment. This clearly requires close coordination at local, regional and national level between the authorities responsible for this initiative and those responsible for Urban which is focused specifically on the problems of urban areas as a whole. This emphasis does not preclude actions targeted at disadvantaged rural areas.

All actions should be based on the principle of empowerment of the target groups and persons concerned, promoting their active participation in decision-making processes and offering structured pathways to inclusion into the labour market. In this context, integrated approaches should be promoted, which take into account the impact on the person of wider problems associated with exclusion from the labour market, such as housing, health, social protection, mobility, access to justice and public services, as well as training, in accordance with the national policies and priorities of each Member State. Where appropriate, host-country language training should be incorporated within actions targeted at migrants, refugees and other similarly vulnerable groups. Similarly, efforts should be made to promote the involvement and partnership of a wide range of actors, such as public authorities and their agencies, non-governmental organizations, semi-public bodies, the Social Partners, small and medium-sized enterprises, cooperatives, associations, friendly societies and charitable trusts, consumer and resident organizations.

All actions should have defined objectives at local level, which are coherent with objectives at the regional and national level.

It is essential that sufficient time is given in programme-planning to allow for capacity-building among potential project promoters to establish themselves at the local level before developing transnational cooperation.

Within the scope of this strand, the following measures will be eligible for funding. In accordance with the principle of offering structured pathways to inclusion into the labour market, financing will be concentrated on projects which offer an integrated package of training and accompanying measures that address the global needs of the groups or persons targeted.

- (a) *the development of models, in particular on a transnational basis, for improving the accessibility and quality in the provision of the full range of public services for vulnerable groups and disadvantaged people and for developing grassroot capacities and community-based approaches to promoting the empowerment and full inclusion of these target groups, including:*

- support for the creation or development of tailored advisory services (particularly for career guidance and counselling) and local development agencies to help create jobs for disadvantaged people particularly in the sectors where employment growth appears high,
  - the occupational integration of disadvantaged people with the help of community infrastructure, information, advice and development of services,
  - support for the development and delivery of integrated community-based services targeted at vulnerable groups and disadvantaged people, perhaps on an outreach basis, or through the organization of 'one-stop-shops' providing information and advice,
  - support for labour market actions aimed at public services personnel and the social partners with a view to promoting tolerance and combating discrimination in access to the labour market in relation to vulnerable groups and disadvantaged people,
  - support for labour market focused actions to build confidence and empower local groups to play an active part in the decision-making-process related to training and support in project development and management, business and communication skills, organization of community activities; and other activities aiming at stimulating dialogue between key actors in the public, private and voluntary sectors,
  - support for the implementation of flexible training and learning systems such as distance and interactive computer learning,
  - strengthening the cooperation and interaction between vocational schools, vocational training and enterprises for the implementation of new forms of on- and off-the-job training,
  - setting up reception/guidance and employment centres, including places of transit, for multiple use, for the initial integration of refugees;
- (b) *the delivery, in particular through transnational cooperation, of training, including:*
- training of disadvantaged people in new skills and qualifications especially for sectors where employment growth appears high and in areas of R&TD and innovative technologies,
  - training of disadvantaged people (psychological and social rehabilitation, pre-training, upgrading of basic skills, retraining) preceded and accompanied by on-going assessment and counselling. This will include *inter alia* 'on-the-job' training modules linked to special courses for specific target groups and the development of mentoring approaches to improve integration into the labour market,
  - training or upgrading of skills and qualifications of advisers, local development agents, trainers, social workers, representatives of the Social Partners and those responsible for personnel in the private sector, in order to improve their understanding and awareness in matters concerning the integration of disadvantaged people into sectors where employment growth appears high;
- (c) *job creation and support, particularly on a transnational basis, for the start-up of enterprises, cooperatives and public-private partnerships, including:*
- job-creation measures designed to exploit local potential for developing new types of employment based on innovative approaches to the organization of work,
  - innovative approaches to reducing the labour costs for employers of groups with lower productivity in the labour market,
  - development of supported employment places and new employment schemes (through, for example, sheltered employment and cooperatives),
  - job-creation actions to facilitate integration into the labour market and to offset possible loss of benefits in the transition from a protected environment,
  - support to local employment initiatives including public-private partnerships and involving local communities in particular in sectors where employment intensive growth appears high;



(d) *information dissemination and awareness actions, including:*

- support for the wide dissemination of information on employment and training opportunities in a format accessible to disadvantaged groups,
- actions to raise the awareness of the general public, the Social Partners and education, training and employment services personnel with regard to the employment potential of vulnerable groups and disadvantaged people, in particular through the publication of codes of good practice,
- the development and promotion of networks for peer support and self-help activity among vulnerable groups and disadvantaged people.

#### V. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

13. Technical assistance will be available at the initiative of the Member States or of the Commission and will be supported during both the stage of preparation of proposals and the subsequent stage of implementation. Technical assistance may include:
- the dissemination of information and other awareness actions,
  - the provision of consultancy and expert services,
  - the organization of bilateral or multilateral meetings between Member States to facilitate cooperation,
  - the development and sharing of databases on training and employment services and other aspects of labour market organization,
  - the carrying-out of studies regarding innovative methods and the results of training, training of trainers and vocational guidance activities,
  - assistance on evaluation procedures and practices,
  - the creation or development of Community-wide networks to facilitate innovation and transnational cooperation.

A coordinated and coherent approach in regard to related Community action programmes should be ensured in particular for databases, networks and information dissemination. When the Commission proposes to launch a specific network, it will inform the Member States in due time.

#### VI. COMMUNITY FINANCING

14. The actions covered by this initiative shall be jointly financed by the Member States, the Community and by enterprises and other bodies where appropriate. Where employees of companies take part in the various operations, the enterprises concerned shall finance an appropriate part of their cost.
15. The total contribution from the Structural Funds for the period 1994 to 1999 is estimated at ECU 1,835 million of which ECU 900 million will be allocated to Objectives 1 and 6 regions.
16. The distribution of resources between Member States under this initiative will be based on the relative severity of structural problems, including in particular relevant unemployment levels, as well as the quality of the proposals submitted for operational programmes and global grants.

17. Amounts will be allocated to each strand as follows:

'Employment — NOW'	ECU 496 million
'Employment — Horizon'	ECU 513 million
'Employment — Youthstart'	ECU 441 million
'Employment — Integra'	<u>ECU 385 million</u>
Total	ECU 1 835 million

In the adoption of the respective operational programmes, a corresponding balance between the strands should be reflected.

18. Rates of assistance will respect the provisions of the Structural Funds regulations. Under the technical assistance provisions, a maximum rate of assistance may be accorded for transnational actions.

#### VII. IMPLEMENTATION

19. Member States are invited to present proposals for support in the form of operational programmes or of global grants within four months of the date of publication of this communication. In the latter case, Community assistance may be granted directly to decentralized organizations responsible for

implementation, including organizations responsible for managing transnational actions and designated by the Member State concerned.

20. As far as the most remote regions are concerned, the measures laid down in this initiative should, as a priority, be implemented in the framework and within the financial resources of the Community initiative Regis.
21. During the preparation of proposals, Member States are invited to discuss with the Commission the main priorities and eligible measures and the mechanisms of implementation.
22. Use can be made of the provisions for transnational operational programmes whereby two or more Member States may, on their own initiative or at the invitation of the Commission, present a single application for assistance. In response to these applications the Commission may, in consultation with the Member States concerned, take a single decision granting financial support.
23. Within the context of operational programmes or global grants measures should be identified by the main objectives of the Structural Funds. The proposals must include a general appreciation of the situation indicating the objectives to be attained and should include a timetable, criteria and procedures for implementation, monitoring and assessment.
24. A single monitoring committee within each Member State will be responsible for the initiative as a whole.
25. It is proposed to develop special support structures under the various strands of the initiative. Cooperation with other Community action programmes concerned will also be reinforced in terms of guidelines, technical assistance, joint operations and

networks, follow-up of projects, evaluation, research and dissemination of information. The national authorities concerned with this initiative will make reciprocal arrangements with those concerned with other related Community programmes to ensure that, in the selection of the projects, there is the maximum complementarity and minimum overlap between these programmes.

26. The Commission will require Member States to formulate and implement programmes so as to optimize the conditions for transnational cooperation.

#### VIII. EVALUATION

27. During and at the end of the planning period the Commission shall evaluate, in partnership with the Member States, the results of the programmes submitted. In order to carry out this evaluation the Commission will use the objectives specified by Member States according to the provisions laid down in Part VII, point 22 as the main benchmark against which to assess progress. As a function of the desired objectives and the implemented measures this evaluation will provide data related to the target groups including the final beneficiaries. The European Parliament, the management committee on the Community initiatives and the committee referred to in Part VII, point 23 of this communication shall be informed of the results of such evaluation measures and the action taken in response to them.
28. Correspondence concerning this communication should be sent to:

Mr A. Larsson  
Director-General  
Directorate-General for Employment, Industrial  
Relations and Social Affairs  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200,  
B-1049 Brussels.



## COMMUNICATION TO THE MEMBER STATES

laying down amended guidelines for operational programmes or global grants which Member States are invited to propose within the framework of the Community initiative on adaptation of the workforce to industrial change (Adapt) aimed at promoting employment and the adaptation of the workforce to industrial change

(96/C 200/05)

1. At its meeting of 15 June 1994 the Commission of the European Communities decided to introduce an initiative on adaptation of the workforce to industrial change (Adapt) in the context of Article 11 of the Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 as modified by the Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93. At its meeting on 8 May 1996 the Commission of the European Communities decided to introduce a further priority within this initiative entitled Adapt-bis (building the information society) covering the planning period 1996 to 1999.

2. Within the framework of this initiative the Community may grant subsidies for measures which satisfy the guidelines laid down in this communication and which are included in proposals for operational programmes or global grants submitted by the Member States and approved by the European Commission. In addition, other Community financial instruments may make an appropriate contribution to this initiative.

### I. OBJECTIVES

3. This initiative aims to contribute to the adaptation of the workforce to industrial change, and to improve the workings of the labour market with a view to growth, employment and the competitiveness of companies in the European Union. As such, it is a direct follow-up to the Commission's White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment presented to the European Council in December 1993.

4. The initiative has four interrelated objectives:

- (a) to accelerate the adaptation of the workforce to industrial change;
- (b) to increase the competitiveness of industry, services and commerce;
- (c) to prevent unemployment by developing the workforce through improving qualifications and their internal and external flexibility and ensuring greater occupational mobility;

(d) to anticipate and accelerate the development of new jobs and new activities, particularly labour-intensive ones; this includes exploiting the potential of SMEs.

Within these objectives, the initiative will also promote actions concerned with identifying and articulating a positive social policy framework for the information society. The Adapt-bis priorities should facilitate the transition into the information society and minimize the social exclusion effects which can result from it. This can be achieved, *inter alia*, by developing practical knowledge and experience about the effects of the emerging information society on employment amongst all key social, economic, and political actors. In particular, Adapt-bis aims to stimulate:

- a high level of awareness of these issues, providing practical guidance and support for people involved in producing and implementing the new technologies and those who will be affected by them,
- the identification and transfer of good practice in the use of these technologies which is appropriate and specific to local circumstances, needs, and levels of development,
- experimentation and dissemination of experience, including that already gained from Community R&TD and vocational training programmes as well as other relevant initiatives, widely across Europe.

5. Positive benefits will accrue right across the initiative from the active cross-fertilization of ideas and experiences. In submitting requests for support under this initiative Member States should ensure that the overall package of proposals contains a well-balanced set of actions related to each of the main categories of eligible measures listed in paragraph 7 of this Communication.

The Commission, in partnership with Member States, will aim to ensure complementarity between

measures assisted under this initiative and introduced under the employment and development of human resources initiative, the initiative for SMEs as well as those supported under other Community programmes, in particular in the field of vocational training and of equal opportunities for women.

## II. PRIORITIES

6. Over and above the measures taken by Member States themselves and the other activities supported by the European Social Fund, this initiative is intended to serve as a catalyst for Community-wide innovation as well as for the organized transfer of expertise and the dissemination of good practice between Member States. Attention will be given to actions aiming at promoting equal opportunities for women.

In order to achieve higher added value for the Community, Member States' proposals should aim, in particular:

- (a) to facilitate the adaptation of the workforce at risk through vocational training and retraining, guidance and counselling actions, especially for workers confronted with evolving job requirements related especially to changes in particular:
    - new technological production systems,
    - new production procedures,
    - management and organization of work (strategies of total quality),
    - use of modern communication and information systems,
    - increasing of environmental requirements,
    - rational use of energy,
    - design of products,
    - changing in marketing strategies;
  - (b) to promote partnership and cooperation between research centres, enterprises, training bodies and public authorities, in particular:
    - to stimulate enterprises to train their employees in order to allow for rapid application of research and development results which respond to the concrete needs of enterprises especially as regards the application of new technologies,
    - to improve the capacity of training providers to deliver the necessary training in this regard;
  - (c) to develop networks and cooperation between producers, suppliers and customers; this will involve both large companies and suppliers as well as SMEs, in order to stimulate the transfer of relevant know-how and good practice and to improve the ability of firms to train their workforce especially to meet the specific needs of SMEs.
- In this context, a particular effort will be made:
- to ensure the essential synergy of interrelated business and training plans,
  - to promote the development of competitive cluster activities and the participation of SMEs in enterprise networks;
- (d) to contribute to the development of a proactive social policy for the emerging European information society through the following aims:
- to evaluate and anticipate labour market developments related to the emerging information society, in particular anticipating:
    - the obsolescence of certain areas of skill and facilitating the development of new competences,
    - the emergence of new industries and information-intensive sectors and occupations, especially those where employment is likely to grow,
    - the employment effects of the information society within industrial sectors and on labour market trends,
    - barriers to the development of the information society, in particular attitudinal, social, political and legal/regulatory barriers,
    - to develop active strategies to help the labour force adapt to the new demands of the information society and to encourage the gearing of IT products to the needs of



potential users; this could be achieved, *inter alia*, by:

- facilitating experiments and pilot schemes to provide workplace-based training and life-long learning opportunities for workers faced with adapting to the information society,
- promoting experimentation with new telematics-based employment services which facilitate wider and more user-friendly access by those requiring these services,
- helping local labour market organizations to be more responsive and flexible in the context of the information society,
- to develop and experiment policies and schemes which will support the adaptation of work organization and employment practices to the information society and to identify ways to improve both the quality of working life and business efficiency, through:
  - enhancing the skills of management regarding the introduction of new information and communication technologies, especially in relation to SMEs seeking new opportunities within a global marketplace,
  - the rapid diffusion of best practice in applying these technologies in the workplace through the support of information exchange networks between enterprises, and between the public and private sectors,
  - increasing the ability of workers to participate in the re-design of work and organizational structures in relation to information society,
  - new institutional approaches to the development of skills and competences, such as private-public cooperation in the design and delivery of new concepts for learning and continuing education (e.g. open and distance learning and re-training).

These priorities should be structured around the existing groups of measures.

To ensure the equal and full participation of both male and female employees in training, adequate childcare provision should be provided.

This list of priorities is not exhaustive and may need to be adapted in the light of the changing industrial situation.

### III. ELIGIBLE MEASURES

7. The list of measures which follows presents all actions which may be financed under this initiative. When preparing their proposals for operational programmes or for global grants, Member States are invited to select, in cooperation with the Commission, a more limited list of measures on which to concentrate financial assistance.

The eligible measures should have some specific features:

- (a) demonstrate an overall transnational dimension, giving priority to transnational exchange, cooperation and dissemination of information, involving partners in Objective 1 and Objective 6 regions;
- (b) be innovative;
- (c) give priority to improving the efficiency of training and employment systems and services and the promotion of transparency of qualifications;
- (d) encourage a more active and coordinated approach at local level to obtain a greater employment impact by involving in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the measures all relevant actors designated by the Member States, including local and regional authorities, economic and social partners and training bodies;
- (e) reinforce Community policies as well as Community programmes especially in the field of employment, human resources and labour market integration;
- (f) provide for the necessary flexibility to accommodate needs which cannot be foreseen at the first planning stage, and which call for a special effort from the Community.

The following measures will be eligible:

- (1) supply of training, counselling and guidance, including:
  - support in the form of expertise for groups of firms designed to help them to identify the implications of changes to the industrial environment and to define and set up business plans and to implement the corresponding training plans and actions,
  - support for the development and supply of training schemes related to new qualifications and skills of the workforce in firms concerned linked to change in production systems, by developing cooperation between training institutes, research centres, economic development agencies and firms,
  - development and supply of guidance and counselling systems for workers affected by industrial change in different economic sectors, in particular those threatened by unemployment and those working within SMEs,
  - assistance to SMEs for the setting-up and implementation of internal and external ongoing training programmes,
  - training actions aimed at improving the capacity of entrepreneurs and managers to adapt to change and to design the relevant business plans; particular attention will need to be paid to improving management quality in SMEs;
- (2) anticipation, promotion of networking and new employment opportunities including:
  - anticipation of labour market trends and skill/qualification needs relating to the changing environment of industry and services through the creation or development at European level, of sectoral and regional networks set up to analyse trends in markets, production systems, enterprise organization, industrial relations, employment and related qualifications and the local development support structures and services offered to firms; these networks should work in close association with the economic and social partners, training providers and employment services,
  - encouragement for cooperation and training in new fields of economic activities with a view to the creation of new employment opportunities,
  - support for local employment development initiatives including public-private partnerships to combine economic development strategies with training activities for the affected workforce;
- (3) adaptation of support structures and systems including:
  - promotion of cooperation and exchange between companies and research in the field of technology transfer to local labour markets and economic sectors most affected by change in employment and training to firms and vocational training bodies,
  - support for the development of schemes for the training of trainers of adaptation of workers to industrial change and change in production systems outlined for this initiative,
  - support to actions promoting regional, inter-regional and transnational cooperation between enterprises; in particular training for the setting up of shared service provision (e.g. research, design, marketing);
- (4) information, dissemination and awareness actions including:
  - development of databases on employment and adaptation actions geared towards the adaptation of workers to change, and inter-linkage with databases on continuous training,
  - promotion of the diffusion of best practice and exchange of experience based on an inter-regional and transnational approach stimulating the application of adequate training schemes and to enhance the multiplier effect,
  - studies related to industrial change with particular reference to management, organization, technological innovation, new production systems and procedures, communication and information systems,



environmental factors and their impact on occupation and skill/qualifications of the workforce interlinked with the methods and results of training, training of trainers and vocational guidance activities,

- actions to raise awareness of the different economic sectors, training and employment services, research institutes, chambers of commerce and industry, employers and workers organizations and the public authorities, amongst other relevant actors in particular through specific exchange seminars and publication of examples of good practice; support for information services and support structures such as networks for the dissemination of this information.

#### IV. REGIONAL ELIGIBILITY AND CONCENTRATION

8. This initiative is applicable to the whole of the territory of the Union. However, particular emphasis will be placed on the needs and of the less favoured regions.

#### V. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

9. Technical assistance will be available at the initiative of the Member States or of the Commission and will be supported during both the stage of preparation of proposals and the subsequent stage of implementation. Technical assistance may include:

- dissemination of information and other awareness actions,
- provision of consultancy and expert services,
- organization of bilateral or multilateral meetings between Member States and acting organizations to facilitate cooperation,
- development and sharing of databases on labour market, employment training and employment services and other aspects of labour market organization,
- carrying out of studies regarding innovative methods and the results of training, training of trainers and vocational guidance activities,
- assistance on evaluation procedures and practices,
- creation or development of Community-wide networks to facilitate innovation and transnational cooperation.

A coordinated and coherent approach in regard to related Community action programmes should be ensured in particular for databases, networks and information dissemination. When the Commission proposes to launch a new network, it will inform the Member States in due time.

#### VI. COMMUNITY FINANCING

10. The actions covered by this initiative shall be jointly financed by the Member States, the Community and by enterprises and other bodies where appropriate. Where employees of companies take part in the various operations, the enterprises concerned shall finance an appropriate part of their cost.
11. The total contribution from the Structural Funds for the period 1994 to 1999 is estimated at ECU 1,63 billion of which ECU 0,46 billion will be allocated to Objective 1 and Objective 6 regions. The total additional contribution from the Structural Funds in respect of Adapt-bis for the period 1996 to 1999 is estimated at ECU 162 million, of which ECU 51 million will be allocated to Objective 1 and Objective 6 regions.
12. The distribution of resources between Member States under this initiative will be based on the relative severity of structural problems, including in particular relevant unemployment levels, as well as the quality of the proposals submitted for operational programmes and global grants.
13. Rates of assistance will respect the provisions of the Structural Funds regulations. Under the technical assistance provisions, a maximum rate of assistance may be accorded for the transnational actions.

#### VII. IMPLEMENTATION

14. Member States are invited to present proposals for support under Adapt-bis in the form of supplements to the existing Adapt operational programmes or of global grants within four months of the date of publication of this communication. In the latter case, Community assistance may be granted directly to decentralized organizations responsible for implementation, including organizations responsible for managing transnational actions and designated by the Member State concerned.

15. As far as the most remote regions are concerned, the measures laid down in this initiative should, as a priority, be implemented in the framework and within the financial resources of the Community initiative Regis.
16. During the preparation of proposals. Member States are invited to discuss with the Commission the main priorities and eligible measures and the mechanisms of implementation.
17. Use can be made of the provisions for transnational operational programmes whereby two or more Member States may, on their own initiative or at the invitation of the Commission, present a single application for assistance. In response to these applications the Commission may, in consultation with the Member States concerned, take a single decision granting financial support.
18. Within the context of operational programmes or global grants measures should be identified by the main objectives of the Structural Funds. The proposals must include a general appreciation of the situation indicating the objectives to be attained and should include a timetable, criteria and procedures for implementation, monitoring and assessment.
19. A single monitoring committee in each Member State will be responsible for this initiative.
20. It is proposed to develop special support structures for the initiative. Cooperation with other Community initiatives in the context of human resources and of industrial change, in particular the regional reconversion initiatives and the SMEs initiative, and Community action programmes concerned, in particular the action programmes of vocational training, will also be reinforced in terms of guidelines, technical assistance, joint operations and networks, follow-up of projects, evaluation, research and dissemination of information. The national authorities concerned with this initiative will

make reciprocal arrangements with those concerned with other related Community programmes to ensure that in the selection of the projects, there is the maximum complementarity and minimum overlap between these programmes.

21. The Commission will require Member States to formulate and implement programmes so as to optimize the conditions for transnational cooperation.

#### VIII. EVALUATION

22. During and at the end of the planning period the Commission shall evaluate, in partnership with the Member States, the results of the programmes submitted. In order to carry out this evaluation the Commission will use the objectives specified by Member States according to the provisions laid down in Part VII, point 18 as the main benchmark against which to assess progress. As a function of the desired objectives and the implemented measures this evaluation will provide data related to the target groups including the final beneficiaries. The European Parliament, the management committee on the Community initiatives and the committee referred to in Part VII, point 19 of this communication shall be informed of the results of such evaluation measures and the action taken in response to them.
23. Correspondence concerning this communication should be sent to:

Mr A. Larsson  
Director-General  
Directorate-General for Employment, Industrial  
Relations and Social Affairs,  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200  
B-1049 Brussels.



## COMMUNICATION TO THE MEMBER STATES

laying down guidelines for operational programmes which Member States are invited to establish in the framework of a Community initiative concerning urban areas

(URBAN)

(96/C 200/04)

1. At its meeting on 8 May 1996, the Commission of the European Communities decided to establish an extension of the Community initiative concerning urban areas (hereafter called Urban) within the meaning of Article 11 of Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93 <sup>(1)</sup> amending Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 and Article 3 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2083/93 <sup>(2)</sup> amending Regulation (EEC) No 4254/88.

2. In the context of Urban, Community assistance in the form of loans and grants and technical assistance is made available for measures in areas which respect the guidelines laid down in this notice, and which are included in operational programmes submitted by the Member States and approved by the Commission of the European Communities.

### I. SCOPE AND OBJECTIVE

3. Some of the Community's most acute problems associated with lack of economic opportunity, low incomes and a generally poor quality of life are found in urban areas. The growing tensions within European society are evident particularly in the serious level of social exclusion in an increasing number of inner city or peripheral urban areas.

4. Problems are often aggravated by the financial difficulties of many urban local authorities who are unable to provide increasingly expensive support services for a less affluent population. This leads to the deterioration of the urban fabric, the impossibility of renovating or replacing obsolete infrastructures and the disappearance or severe reduction of economic activity in the worst affected areas.

5. Difficult neighbourhoods within cities may be identified geographically. Certain socio-economic indicators are significantly worse than the average of the city or urban agglomeration area. These would include unemployment levels, education attainment, the crime rate, standard of housing, the percentage of social-welfare benefit recipients, the socio-ethnic mix, environmental decay, deteriorating public

transport and poor local facilities etc. These deprived areas can also be within generally prosperous cities, or in cities which are the most prosperous parts of a less developed region.

6. Urban issues should be tackled in an integrated way, supporting business creation, improving infrastructures and the physical environment, providing customized training, actions for equality of opportunities and social amenities. In this respect, a special attention will also have to be paid in order to face the problems of a lack of opportunities for women, long-term unemployment, the urban environment. The combined effort of ERDF and ESF will be needed, but it has to be complemented by other resources.

7. This extension of the Urban initiative cannot hope to match in scale what is in effect a major problem of contemporary society. It aims instead to act as a catalyst in a broad-based approach, by undertaking key schemes to help deprived urban areas achieve a lasting improvement in living standards for their inhabitants.

8. It will provide assistance to the responsible authorities in their efforts to provide the necessary amenities so as to attract economic activity and create confidence and security for the population living in the areas, integrating them into the economy and the social mainstream.

### II. DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE AREAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF URBAN

9. Eligible areas for the purpose of the Urban initiative will include a limited number of urban areas within cities, in particular medium-sized cities, and urban agglomerations with a population of more than 100 000. There are some 350 to 400 such cities in the European Union. In exceptional cases urban areas in smaller cities could be taken into consideration.

10. Target areas could be urban neighbourhoods geographically identifiable; either an existing administrative unit such as a borough, a commune or even smaller entities within a densely populated area, with a minimum size of population, with a high level of unemployment, with a decayed urban fabric, bad housing conditions and lack of social amenities.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993, p. 24.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993, p. 36.



11. Priority would be given to urban areas in cities located in Objective 1 regions.
12. The number of individual projects that could be supported by this extension of the Urban initiative might be around twenty. They should have a demonstrative character for other urban areas suffering from similar problems. Each Member State would send a limited list of proposed projects, in agreement with the local and other authorities concerned.
13. Priority will be given to innovative projects forming part of long-term urban integration strategies being implemented by the cities concerned. The drafting of plans of this kind could be supported, at the request of a Member State, by technical assistance.

### III. ELIGIBLE MEASURES

14. Community assistance, in the form of loans or grants in aid as appropriate, may be made available within the framework of this extension of the Urban initiative, in favour of integrated development programmes for a geographically defined and limited part of a city. The integrated approach should address in a comprehensive way the economic, social and environmental problems of the deprived urban area. The integrated programme should comprise a balanced and coherent set of economic development, social integration and environmental measures based on local partnership proposals. Priority will be given to integrated programmes which are of an innovative character, which have a demonstrable added value and help create local employment.
15. There should be a systematic attempt to add the multiplier effect of public input in support of private and collective efforts. The structural funds cannot be involved in all areas, e.g. housing, but can contribute to concerted action by national and city authorities. In this context the Funds could support the preparation of overall urban strategies at the request of the Member States or the regional or local authorities concerned.
16. The initiative should also back European networks for mutual cooperation and exchange of information in sharing experience from schemes that have already proved successful, so far as these requirements are not met by cooperation activities assisted under other Community initiatives introduced under the structural funds regulations or other programmes of the Community. A suitable amount of financial resources, within each operational programme, should be intended for this purpose. The exchange of experience networks, developed in cooperation with the Member States, the local authorities concerned and others, can include cities in regions not currently eligible for ERDF assistance.
17. In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, the measures to be included in an integrated programme should be drawn up by the local partnership, taking into account the diversity of problems faced by cities. The following list of possible measures that could feature in integrated programmes is intended to be illustrative and indicative. It comprises a number of types of measures which have been included in the urban pilot programme financed under Article 10 of the ERDF Regulation. When conceiving and implementing measures through this extension of the Urban initiative, it is recommended that special scope be also given for actions in favour of equality of opportunities for women, long-term unemployment and the environment in urban areas.

#### — Launching of new economic activities:

- provision of workshops; support for business, commerce, cooperatives, mutual associations, and services for SMEs; creation of business centres, technology transfer,
- creation of public/private partnerships in particular to manage integrated economic development programmes,
- creation of a pool of management and marketing consultants; customized counselling for businessmen; advice to starters,

#### — ensuring employment for local people:

- customized training schemes and language training oriented in particular to the specific needs of minorities,
- training for new technologies, e.g. computer skills needed in the financial services sector or computer-based production for the commercial arts,
- mobile units for employment and training advice,
- work-experience schemes for long-term unemployed on local rehabilitation projects,
- support for job-intensive projects at the local level,



— improvement of social, health and security provisions:

- provision of nursery and crèche facilities,
- improvement of health conditions; drug rehabilitation centres,
- increasing security and preventing criminality, involvement of residents in the supervision of neighbourhoods; improved street lighting,

— improvement of infrastructures and environmental conditions linked to the above measures:

- renovation of buildings to accommodate new social and economic activities,
- rehabilitation of public spaces including green areas,
- improvement of energy efficiency,
- improvement of access to telematic services,
- reclamation of derelict sites and contaminated land,
- provision of cultural, leisure and sports amenities,
- actions to facilitate the mobility of the local population,
- special workshops to give incentives, skills and opportunities to residents for the refurbishing, maintenance and improving of security of housing estates,
- support in improving the local capacity to solve problems, including exchange schemes and the creation of partnerships of the city organizations and actors concerned.

#### IV. THE COMMUNITY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE FINANCING OF URBAN

18. The total contribution by the Structural Funds to this extension of the Urban initiative during the period 1996 to 1999 is estimated at ECU 157 million of which ECU 61 million should go to Objective 1 areas and ECU 96 million to other areas.
19. Where possible and appropriate, operations funded by this extension of the Urban initiative should be planned and implemented taking into account other actions under the Structural Funds and Community programmes such as Leonardo and other initiatives in the field of social exclusion as well as actions

supported by grants from the EFTA cohesion fund and loans from the European Investment Bank.

#### V. IMPLEMENTATION

20. Member States wishing to benefit from this extension of the Urban initiative are invited to present operational programmes or, where appropriate, applications for global grants for urban areas within six months of the publication of the present communication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. Proposals received after this date need not be taken into consideration by the Commission.

During the preparation of proposals, the Commission will offer on request any necessary technical assistance.

Local and other authorities and the social partners should be involved in the preparation and implementation of operational programmes in the manner appropriate to each Member State.

The proposals must include an appreciation of the situation indicating the objectives to be attained and should include a timetable, criteria and procedures for implementation, monitoring and assessment. During and at the end of the planning period the Commission shall evaluate, in partnership with the Member States, the results of the programmes submitted. The European Parliament, the management committee on the Community initiatives and the monitoring committees shall be informed of the results of such evaluations and the action taken in response to them.

21. In those cases where an amount allocated to the Member State is insufficient to allow the setting up of a new and worthwhile operational programme, the new allocation coming from this extension of the Urban initiative might be used to strengthen measures foreseen within the existing national programmes already selected in the framework of Urban.
22. All correspondence related to this notice should be addressed to:

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B-1049 Brussels.

## NOTICE TO THE MEMBER STATES

laying down guidelines for an initiative in the framework of the special support programme for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland

(95/C 186/04)

1. At its meeting on 16 May 1995, the European Commission decided to establish a Community initiative in the framework of the special support programme for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, within the meaning of Article 11 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, as amended by Regulation (EEC)

No 2082/93<sup>(1)</sup>, and Article 3 of Regulation (EEC) No 4254/88, as amended by Council Regulation (EEC) No 2083/93<sup>(2)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993, p. 24.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993, p. 16.



2. This initiative applies to Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland (hereafter referred to as the border counties).

### I. Background and objectives

3. Arising from the cessation of violence and the developing peace process in Northern Ireland, a special Commission task force was established in September 1994 for the purpose of looking into further ways of giving practical assistance to Northern Ireland and the border counties in consultation with the two Member States directly concerned. In particular, the task force was requested to consider ways to develop and refocus the policies of the European Union to help those who have been most affected by the conflict to live together in mutual respect and economic prosperity.

4. The task force adopted a broad and open consultative approach. The MEPs for Northern Ireland and the border counties were in close touch with the task force. Extensive consultations took place and valuable input was received from many different quarters, including local authorities, business, trade unions, voluntary and other groups. The input from this consultative process was of great interest and indispensable for the work of the task force.

5. The report of the task force, which was submitted to the Commission in December 1994, considered the new opportunities and additional needs arising from the cessation of violence and the developing peace process and noted that the improved climate on the ground and renewed prospects for peace and reconciliation should provide new opportunities, especially for the vulnerable sections of the population. The report noted none the less that, while providing new opportunities for employment and job creation, the peace process will also create additional needs, such as the redirection of redundant skills. However, the new momentum for peace provides above all the potential for a lasting and meaningful reconciliation between the divided communities.

6. The task force concluded that the European Union has a clear interest and vital role to play in maintaining the momentum for peace by means of a special support programme for Northern Ireland and the border counties. The central objective of the programme should be reconciliation; it should benefit all communities in an equitable and balanced way, while focusing more particularly on those areas and sections of the population suffering most acute deprivation, and it must have an immediate and visible impact on the ground. The positive effect of the European Union's involvement in promoting lasting peace and reconciliation between its citizens should ultimately benefit not only the region most affected, but the European Union as a whole.

7. The task force recommended that the main element of a special support programme should be a new Community initiative for Northern Ireland and the border counties.

8. The report of the task force formed the basis of a subsequent Commission communication to the Council and the European Parliament, in which the Commission supported its recommendations. The principle of a special programme for Northern Ireland and the allocation of financial resources of ECU 300 million for the period 1995 to 1997 were subsequently endorsed by the European Council at Essen on 9 and 10 December 1994.

9. A key element of the report of the task force and the subsequent communication to the Commission was the need to promote social inclusion. Community conflict and divisions have been a major element of social and labour market exclusion in Northern Ireland. They have tended to divide the labour market and have thus impeded its effective functioning and have limited opportunities for employment growth. In order to combat this exclusion and promote integration of the labour market, it is therefore necessary to support action to address the underlying problems in Northern Ireland's social and economic fabric. The fundamental problem of understanding and communication should be approached by the development of a reconciliation process which builds on the existing solidarity within communities in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland, both urban and rural.

The severity of the exclusion problem in Northern Ireland, combined with the unique opportunities for change and improvement offered by the cessation of violence, call for radical solutions. Tackling the root cause of these problems will require a flexible combination of economic and social measures across a broad range of fields, including early childhood education, health, housing and cross-community cooperation.

### II. Priorities for action

10. On the basis of its consultations and subsequent deliberations, the task force identified five priority areas which should be addressed in the context of the consolidation of the peace process:

- employment,
- urban and rural regeneration,
- cross-border development,
- social inclusion,
- productive investment and industrial development.

11. In its communication to the Council and the European Parliament, the Commission indicated the key

issues to be addressed in the framework of these priorities:

(i) *Employment*

This would include measures to boost economic growth and employment and would support and enhance the expected growth in sectors such as tourism (including agri-tourism). It should also support the redirection of redundant skills as well as reinforce efforts for the long-term unemployed and the young, and provide for the greater participation by women in the labour force.

(ii) *Urban and rural regeneration*

This would involve the promotion of wide-ranging local development and of social and economic regeneration, in particular through the improvement of the social and physical environment in the worst-affected urban areas, towns, villages and rural areas.

(iii) *Cross-border development*

This would involve a wide range of measures to exploit the opportunities for increased cross-border development arising from the new situation.

(iv) *Social inclusion*

This would aim to promote pathways to reconciliation by encouraging grassroots, cross-community and, where appropriate, cross-border cooperation, especially in the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland and the border counties as well as action to address the specific difficulties faced by vulnerable groups and others at a disadvantage such as victims, children, young people, and those previously caught up with violence including prisoners and ex-prisoners. It would combine economic and social measures including contacts and exchanges following models which have been successful in other Community programmes. It should be flexible and responsive to change and constitute a framework of support for relevant actors (neighbourhoods, communities, youth services, non-governmental organizations (NGO), grassroots organizations, women's groups, local authorities, etc.) to build their reconciliation package.

(v) *Productive investment and industrial development*

This would aim to enhance existing facilities to promote productive investment, industrial development and services, particularly the development of SMEs, thus promoting competitiveness.

### III. Eligible measures

12. In this section an indicative list of eligible measures is proposed in the framework of the five priority areas mentioned above. Further measures related to the priority areas but not included in the list may also be considered for support:

(i) *Employment*

- development of mechanisms to anticipate industrial change, including skill and labour market observatories,
- improvement of training, guidance and counselling services, including training of trainers, development of equal opportunities modules,
- innovatory training schemes, especially those aimed at women, including combined training, education and work experience for young people,
- improvement and development of training delivery for employed persons, including management development,
- work placement, community employment schemes combining good quality training and work experience,
- local employment initiatives, especially those which tap new sources of employment (e.g. environment, care services),
- initiatives aimed at helping young people, in particular, to develop entrepreneurial and work skills,
- setting up of specialized placement centres with links to employers, drawing on up-to-date information on job, skill and qualification needs and provision of career and training information and guidance, counselling, retraining, support for self-employment with a view to redirecting redundant skills,
- provision of care services for dependants with a view to increasing access to training, education and employment opportunities,
- strengthening innovation and research and technical development (R&TD), especially among SMEs, including the building of closer links between educational establishments, research centres and firms,
- promotion of tourism, including agri-tourism and heritage tourism,
- management training for SMEs.



(ii) *Urban and rural regeneration*

- development, training and capacity building related to urban and rural regeneration,
- investments to remedy the physical problems of the peace lines,
- pedestrianization of selected areas,
- provision of parks and children's playgrounds,
- village renewal, landscaping, the clearing and development of derelict sites,
- measures to meet the needs of rural dwellers, including small rural infrastructures,
- community development, including the creation of local partnerships to develop and manage integrated development plans,
- support in the modernization of commerce in urban and rural areas,
- collective measures and provision of facilities for fisheries, aquaculture and angling tourism,
- provision of facilities for small businesses,
- support for development of social, cultural and artistic activities.

(iii) *Cross-border development*

- enhanced trade, economic and agricultural cooperation,
- upgrading of infrastructures through reinstating closed cross-border roads and bridges and improving energy links,
- joint animal health, food and forestry actions,
- joint fisheries and aquaculture actions,
- cooperation between local authorities, health boards, business (in particular SMEs), education and training providers, health establishments, voluntary organizations and other groups,
- support for joint-venture companies (marketing, R&TD) on a cross-border basis.

(iv) *Social inclusion*

- the development of grassroots capacities and cross-community partnerships promoting reconciliation, e.g. in the fields of culture and the arts, leisure, sport, the environment, care, informal education, equal opportunities, as well as in the

workplace. Such partnerships should be locally driven, involve all relevant actors, and offer a practical opportunity for both communities to get together and build reconciliation as well as be designed and managed on a cross-community basis. Action under this heading will also require support for:

- the study of problems and opportunities at neighbourhood and cross-community level,
- the development of capacities and skills of local neighbourhoods in the field of community development,
- the establishment of common interest plans in the social and economic fields involving cross-border areas,
- support for women's groups and activities, both at individual neighbourhood and cross-community level, including the promotion of activities which bridge the generation barrier,
- dialogue and exchange between local authorities, local communities and NGOs.
- measures to promote the full inclusion of children and young people, including the provision of pre-school education and child care and incentives to develop integrated schooling especially at secondary level, family support services and the building of home/school/community/business links, more remedial support, effort to increase levels of educational attainment and action to promote common cultural aspects as well as acknowledgement of cultural diversity,
- measures to improve the accessibility and quality of services for vulnerable groups and people at a disadvantage, including training of trainers, improved research and diagnosis of exclusion problems, the promotion of self-help activity and outreach services,
- measures to promote the full inclusion of vulnerable groups and those at a disadvantage (including victims of violence and former offenders), including specialized guidance and counselling, psychological support, accommodation, social advice and assistance, second chance education,
- developing innovative model actions for reconciliation, including support for international activity aimed at enabling community, cross-

community and cross-border initiatives to exchange views and learn from other conflict resolution situations and enabling communities to break out of their isolation, including the 'twinning' of communities (both urban and rural), schools, voluntary and other groups, etc., possibly with the support of a third partner from outside the regions covered by the initiative.

(v) *Productive investment and industrial development*

- marketing support (particularly to SMEs),
- development measures to strengthen R&TD and its applications (especially in SMEs),
- access to seed and venture capital funds,
- interest subsidies to SMEs through the European Investment Bank,
- measures to improve linkages between large firms and SMEs and to promote local supplier networks.

IV. Community contribution to the financing of the initiative

13. The operational programme under the initiative will be financed jointly by the Community and the Member States concerned. The Community contribution to the financing of the initiative amounts to ECU 300 million for the first three years, from 1995 to 1997. Further financing for the last two years will be subject to a review on the basis of a Commission report. Loans may also be made available by the European Investment Bank. The Community will finance up to 75 % of the cost of measures under the initiative.

The Commission considers that in order to maximize the benefit from this initiative, there should be an indicative allocation of assistance between the areas concerned: Northern Ireland, on the one hand and the border counties on the other. The Commission also believes that genuine cross-border activities are an essential element for the success of the programme and, therefore, an appropriate amount of assistance should be assigned to these activities. In the Commission's view, and as an indicative target, this would mean that up to 80 % of funding would be available for activities in Northern Ireland and not less than 20 % for activities in the border counties. Moreover, at least 15 % of the overall amount will be devoted to activities which are carried out in a cross-border context.

V. Implementation

14. The Member States concerned must submit detailed proposals for an operational programme, which could include one or more global grants, within two months of the date of this notice, outlining activities in Northern Ireland, activities in the border counties and activities which are to be carried out in a cross-border context.

The proposals must include an appreciation of the situation indicating the objectives to be attained and should include a timetable, criteria and procedures for implementation, monitoring and assessment. During and at the end of the planning period the Commission shall evaluate the results of the programme, in partnership with the Member States concerned. The European Parliament, the Management Committee on the Community initiatives and the appropriate monitoring committees shall be informed of the results of such evaluations and the action taken in response to them.

The proposals will need to be prepared with the appropriate involvement of local authorities, business, trade unions, community groups and voluntary organizations. Provision should be made for a mechanism for continuing consultation with these bodies, possibly in the form of a consultative platform, during the implementation and follow up of the programme.

15. Community assistance may be granted either to a central government administration or, for example, in the form of global grants, directly to decentralized organizations responsible for implementation and designated by the Member State concerned, including local authorities, voluntary bodies, community groups and organizations responsible for managing cross-border actions which involve expenditure in both Member States.

16. Since an integrated approach for the implementation of this initiative is considered both desirable and necessary, mechanisms should be put in place to ensure the consistency and complementarity of the initiative with existing supports (notably the social programme document (SPD) for Northern Ireland, the Community support framework (CSF) for Ireland and existing Community initiatives) and also with other organizations such as the International Fund for Ireland. At the level of subprogrammes and/or measures, the monitoring arrangements (subcommittees) should reflect the matter under consideration.

The aim should be to ensure that, during implementation, the management of the programme, through the Monitoring Committee, will facilitate genuine bottom-up involvement by empowering local agencies and groups to



participate in the direction and control of spending, thereby providing a real input for local interests. As during the preparation stage, in addition to representatives from both governments, local authorities, business, trade unions, community groups and voluntary organizations will also be involved.

While this initiative will have a separate and distinct identity it will report on a regular basis to both the SPD Monitoring Committee (Northern Ireland) and the CSF Monitoring Committee (Ireland).

17. Both Governments will have to demonstrate the truly additional nature of this aid package (including the requisite matching funds), over and above the additionality situation as already set out for Northern Ireland and Ireland in the SPD and CSF respectively.

The Commission and the Member States concerned will agree, in establishing this Community initiative, the exact arrangements (including the frequency of additionality assessments) for verifying additionality.

18. In order to promote the full involvement of all relevant actors and to implement effectively the bottom-up approach that is essential to the success of this initiative, technical assistance should be made available during the preparation and implementation of the programme. In the preparation stage, the Commission will offer the necessary technical assistance

for the definition of measures in relation to the priorities and mechanisms of implementation.

The programme jointly submitted by both Member States should include a provision to cover technical assistance during the implementation of the programme. Technical assistance may include:

- dissemination of information and other awareness actions,
- provision of consultancy and expert services interim assessment of the programme, including the initial review of its operation which is foreseen during the third year of its implementation,
- funding for seminars, conferences etc.; which will facilitate the promotion of the aims of this initiative, namely peace and reconciliation,
- the establishment of a coordination mechanism to develop existing potential in the community and voluntary sector, especially amongst women's groups, and to assist local groups to develop proposals and evaluation processes and to act as an animator and general project development resource.

Information and publicity on access to the funding will also be made widely available.

European Commission

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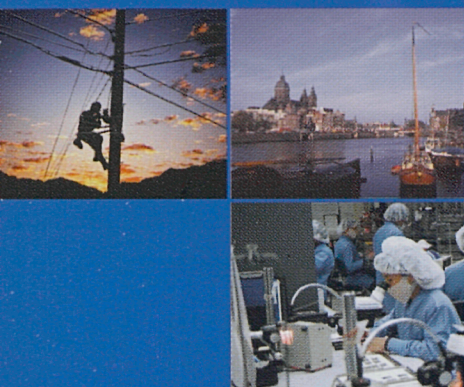
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